Internet Assisted Review (IAR) for Reviewers User Guide

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Document Version 2.6.0
May 5, 2020
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Phone: 301-402-7469
TTY: 301-451-5939
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Email: commons@od.nih.gov (for Commons Support)
Email: helpdesk@od.nih.gov (for IMPAC II Support)
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## DOCUMENT HISTORY

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<td>5/31/2016</td>
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<td><em>Discussion Order</em> is now an option that the SRO may set for the VM List of Applications.</td>
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| 1/30/2018  |                |                  | - **Critique Templates** — Reviewers will now see a link to the associated Critique Template for applications below the RFA/PA name in the **Application** column of the **List of My Assigned Applications** and the **List of All Applications** screens. Additionally, the template will be listed on the **Meeting Materials** screen and you will be able to click on the **View Template** link in the **Action** column to download the Critique Template.  
- **Discussion comments** will be available to | eRA Communications |
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<td>access and read during the <em>Edit</em> phase, when final scoring is set, allowing continued evaluation of discussions as final scores are submitted. Once the final scoring window has ended, and the meeting is in the <em>Edit</em> phase, access to discussion comments will be blocked.</td>
<td>eRA Communications</td>
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| 5/2/2018|                |                  | **New Section for Critique Templates**  
— A new section has been created for critique templates on [IAR’s Meeting Materials](#) screen, to make it easy for reviewers to locate the templates. The section is collapsed by default and can be expanded by clicking on the plus sign. 
**Announcement When on Hold** —  
When a virtual meeting is put on hold. | eRA Communications |
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<td>by the scientific review officer, a <strong>meeting wide announcement</strong> to that effect will automatically be displayed on the <em>Virtual Meeting List of My Assigned Applications</em> screen in IAR along with the date and time the meeting was paused. Another announcement will be automatically posted when the SRO resumes the meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/30/2018</td>
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<td><strong>Pre-Meeting</strong> and <strong>Post-Meeting</strong> Conflict of Interest (COI) forms are now required to be certified electronically via Internet Assisted Review. Paper certifications are no longer accepted. Eight new COI forms are now provided. The correct form will be displayed dependent on whether:</td>
<td>eRA Communications</td>
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|            |                |                  | - the reviewer is Federal or Non-Federal  
- the award is a grant or a contract |
The most current version of this document will be available on the eRA website:

**IMPORTANT:** Did you know the information in this user guide is available as online help, too? Access the IAR Online Help for Reviewers directly at https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/iar_rev or click the ‘?’ icon anywhere within IAR for help specific to that screen.
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Introduction

Internet Assisted Review (IAR) is an Electronic Research Administration (eRA) module used in tandem with the Peer Review module to help expedite the scientific review of applications by providing a standard process for reviewers to submit their critiques, preliminary scores, and final scores and to view applications and related meeting materials via the eRA Commons. IAR also has the ability to enable reviewers to view the critiques of others before the actual meeting (unless conflicts of interest exist). As a result, review meetings can contain more informed discussions.

Scope

The purpose of this document is to assist the reviewer in navigating the IAR system and completing the tasks related to a review meeting. This document discusses how to utilize IAR during the application review process.

Additional online material is available as a supplement to this user guide. eRA’s Training site has materials posted specific to reviewers using IAR. This information is located online at https://era.nih.gov/era_training/iar.cfm.

If a more thorough look at the role and responsibilities of a reviewer is needed, the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has a vast array of information and training materials for reviewers. This useful information is located online at https://public.csr.nih.gov/ReviewerResources/Pages/default.aspx.

The majority of information contained in this user guide also is available as online help. Access the IAR online help at https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/IAR_Rev or by selecting any of the '?' icons found within the IAR system itself.

IAR and eRA Commons

IAR is accessed through the eRA Commons, a web-based system that applicants and institutions use to participate in the electronic grant administration process. Scientific Review Officers (SRO)* use IAR to electronically invite reviewers to participate in review meetings. This process is called enabling. Once enabled for a meeting, a reviewer receives an email invitation either providing instructions for establishing an eRA Commons account or, if that reviewer already has an account, instructions for accessing eRA Commons and IAR with the existing account. (click here for sample emails)

Reviewers use eRA Commons not only to access IAR but also to update their own personal profile information and check on application status as a PI. In order to access IAR, Reviewers must have an eRA Commons account, be listed on the official Meeting Roster, and have a personal profile with an MLG email address (taken from the Reviewer Information section of the eRA Commons Personal Profile). Refer to the section of this document titled Setting Up and Maintaining the eRA Commons Personal Profile on Page 3 for more information.

This document covers the steps taken by a reviewer in the IAR module. If additional information specific to eRA Commons is needed, refer to the eRA Commons User Guide located online at https://era.nih.gov/commons/user_guide.cfm.
Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

Creating an Account to Access IAR

In order to access IAR, reviewers must have an eRA Commons account with the IAR role. Reviewers who do not have an eRA Commons account are invited – through a series of emails – to create one when an SRO adds that reviewer to a meeting. The first email informs the reviewer that he has been invited to the specified meeting. This first email includes a link for accessing eRA Commons to begin creating the new account.

At the completion of this step in the process, the reviewer receives a second email confirming the reviewer’s completion of the account creation. NIH Data Quality department evaluates the account request, and when the request is approved, a third and fourth email are sent to the reviewer.

The third email notifies the reviewer that his account is active. This email includes the reviewer’s new eRA Commons User ID. For security, the password to this user ID is not included within this email.

A temporary password is assigned to the reviewer’s new account and is emailed to the reviewer in the fourth email. Reviewers must use this temporary password to log into eRA Commons for the first time. After logging in, the reviewer is prompted to change the password to one of his choosing.

After the account is successfully established, the reviewer should see the Internet Assisted Review tab as well as the IAR role in eRA Commons.
**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

### Setting Up and Maintaining the eRA Commons Personal Profile

Accurate reviewer information is essential for successfully using IAR for the review process. A reviewer must maintain personal information to ensure that it is accurate. The Personal Profile in eRA Commons is the central repository of information for each of the eRA Commons registered users, which includes all reviewers. It is designed so that individual users hold and maintain ownership over the accuracy of their own profile information. This information is then used in other areas such as IAR and Peer Review. Some examples of the type of data included in the Personal Profile are email address, phone number, employment history, degrees, and addresses. Maintaining a current eRA Commons Personal Profile is imperative for successfully participating in peer review meetings.

To access the Personal Profile:

Log into eRA Commons ([https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons](https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons)) and select the **Personal Profile** tab from the menu structure.

Review the information within each section of the profile. Take care to update the information in the **Name and ID** and **Reviewer Information** sections. Entering and maintaining valid, current information is essential for successfully using IAR and eRA Commons. The information provided within each section has different purposes, so it is important to enter the correct personal information within the proper section.
Refer to the Commons Personal Profile online help for more information on and for help completing the different sections of the Personal Profile.

**Name and ID**

The information used to identify yourself should you forget your password or if you are seeking a new user role (e.g., PI) is located under the Name and ID section.

Steps for completing this section of the profile are found in the Name and ID help topic in the Personal Profile online help.

**Reviewers Information**

A valid email address entered in the Reviewer Information section of the Personal Profile is critical for the SRO to electronically invite you as a reviewer to the meeting. Additionally, the email address entered here is used by the SRO and the IAR system to send emails related to the review meeting. This email address is often referred to as the MLG address. You can enter this email address in the Email field under the Reviewer Communications area of this section of the profile.

This section also holds your home address and provides access to the Secure Payee Registration System (SPRS) in which you can enter your banking information to receive honoraria for your service on review meetings.

Detailed steps for completing this section of the profile are found in the Reviewer Information help topic in the Personal Profile online help.

**Tip:** The Email Address field of the Personal Profile Name and ID section includes a checkbox titled Replace other email addresses? By selecting this checkbox, you can
replace the Reviewer Communications email address in your profile with the email address in the **Name and ID** section. This is a useful shortcut if you use the same email address for multiple purposes.

**How Do I Register For Payments?**

You must register your bank account and other payment information in the Secure Payee Registration System (SPRS) -plus provide Home Address information in your Commons Personal Profile - in order to be paid for service.

The **Reviewer Information** section of the Commons Personal Profile includes a link to the SPRS, however, this link is only accessible when you are in **Edit Mode**. Follow these steps to find the link and access SPRS:

1. Open your Personal Profile in Commons.
2. Select the **Edit** button on the **Reviewer Information** tile. This button is located on the right side of the tile. Selecting the **Edit** button will open the **Reviewer Information** tile in Edit Mode. You must select the **Edit** button in order to see the link to SPRS!

3. With your **Reviewer Information** open for editing, scroll down to the **Reviewer Payments** section - it’s below the **Home Address** section. You should see a link to the SRPS system. The link is titled **Go to the Secure Payment Registration System**.
4. Click the link! The Secure Payment Registration System will open. Fill out and submit the information as requested.

Accessing IAR

To access IAR, log into eRA Commons (https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons) and select the Internet Assisted Review tab from the menu structure.

Session Timeout Warning

A pop-up message appears on top of any maximized window five minutes before the standard 45-minute IAR session is about to time-out. The pop-up includes a countdown of minutes left before you will be automatically logged off IAR.

If you wish to continue working in your IAR session, select the Continue button. This will restart the clock providing an additional 45 minutes.

You can select the Logout button if you are no longer working in IAR and would like the system to log out. If you do opt to log out, please remember to manually close any other pop-up windows that might have been left open.

Note: eRA currently tests and supports Internet Explorer 8 and 9 and Mozilla Firefox 28+. For those using Safari as your browser, this feature may not work as described above.
Sample Emails Received by Reviewers

As a reviewer, you will receive communications (i.e., emails) from eRA Commons containing instructions for creating or setting up your account so that you can access your meetings. These communications vary depending on your current status with the Commons system.

A Current Commons Account Holder

**Email Invitation For IAR Sent to reviewer with Existing Commons Account**

To: <Account holder email>

**Subject - eRA Commons: IAR Reviewer Invitation for meeting <Meeting Identifiers> <Meeting Title>**

Dear Reviewer,

This is a system-generated invitation to the eRA Commons Internet Assisted Review (IAR) website in connection with your participation on Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group [Name of Review Meeting], scheduled for [Dates of Review Meeting].

To submit your preliminary written reviews electronically, you will need to log on to the eRA Commons Internet Assisted Review (IAR) web site with a user name and password. Our records indicate that you have previously established an Internet Assisted Review user account.

Your user name is [Commons user name].

Please open your Web browser and go to the eRA Commons URL [URL Listed Here]. (You can copy and paste this address into the “Location” window of your browser, and press Enter. If the url doesn’t work, make sure it is complete and hasn’t been broken over multiple lines. If
the url spans more than one line, make sure you are entering all of it in the location window of your browser.) Follow the instructions on the screen to log in to eRA Commons. After successfully logging on, click on Internet Assisted Review on the Commons main menu bar. Please follow “Tips for Reviewers” <https://era.nih.gov/files/tips_processing_documents.doc> for submitting critiques.

Note: To process your reimbursement in a timely manner, please make sure that your banking information is complete. You can enter or update your personal banking information securely from eRA Commons. After you access eRA Commons (as described in the paragraph above) click on Personal Profile on the eRA Commons main menu bar. Then click Edit on the Reviewer Information section. On the Reviewer Payments subsection you will be provided with a link "Go to the Secure Payment Registration System" where you can verify and/or update your personal banking information.

If you have questions or encounter problems accessing Internet Assisted Review, please contact me or call the NIH eRA Service Desk at 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

[Scientific Review Officer’s Name and Contact Information]

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### Email Invitation for IAR Sent to Reviewer with Existing Commons Account

**Subject: eRA Commons: IAR Conflict of Interest Check**

Dear Potential Reviewer:

Thank you very much for your consideration to participate as a reviewer on Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group [Name of Meeting].

**Purpose of Email**

This system-generated invitation to the eRA Commons Internet Assisted Review (IAR) website grants you access to the Recruitment Phase of IAR for the purpose of:

- Viewing the list of applications, participating institutions and involved personnel.
- Indicating which applications, if any, you have or think you may have a conflict of interest (COI). The various types of COI you should consider are provided on the IAR website.
- Viewing application abstracts (if applicable)

After indicating potential COI in IAR, please contact the SRO if you have any questions or would like to discuss particular issues in more depth.

**Identifying Potential Conflicts**
To indicate COI in IAR: Log on to the eRA Commons IAR web site with your user name and password. Our records indicate that you have previously established an IAR user account.

Your user name is [Commons User Name]

Please open your Web browser and go to the eRA Commons URL [URL Listed Here]

Follow the instructions on the screen to log in to Commons. After successfully logging on, click on “Internet Assisted Review” on the Commons main screen to view your list of meetings. Read and certify the “Confidentiality Statement” for the meeting listed above to gain access to the IAR Recruitment Phase for indentifying COI.

If you have questions or encounter problems accessing Internet Assisted Review, please call or email the NIH eRA Service Desk at 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552 or email commons@od.nih.gov.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

[Scientific Review Officer’s Name and Contact Information]

New to eRA Commons

Email Invitation for IAR Sent to Reviewer New to Commons

To: <Reviewer email>

Subject - eRA Commons: IAR Reviewer Invitation for meeting <Meeting Identifiers> <Meeting Title>

Dear Reviewer:

This is a system-generated invitation to the eRA Commons Internet Assisted Review (IAR) website in connection with your participation on Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group [Name of Review Meeting] scheduled for [Dates for Review Meeting].

To submit your preliminary written reviews electronically, you will need to log on to the eRA Commons Internet Assisted Review (IAR) website with a user name and password. To establish that user name and password, we have set up a special URL (address on the Internet) that is unique to you.

Please visit this web site to create your account as soon as possible or no later than 2 weeks before your reviews are due. Open your Web browser and go to the URL [URL Listed Here] (You can copy and paste this address into the "Location" window of your browser, and press Enter. If the url doesn't work, make sure it is complete and hasn't been broken over multiple lines. If the url spans more than one line make sure you are entering all of it in the location window of your browser and that there are no spaces in the address). Follow the instructions on the screen to enter information about yourself. You will also be asked to verify the public information that NIH has on file to ensure your information is both accurate and complete.
After submitting your registration request, you should receive a notification about your account activation within 2-5 business days; it will contain the URL for the eRA Commons web site. At that time you will be able to access Internet Assisted Review with temporary password which will be sent to you in a separate email. Please note that you cannot use Internet Assisted Review until your account is active.

If you have questions or problems setting up your account, please call or email the NIH eRA Service Desk at 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552 or commons@od.nih.gov.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

[Scientific Review Officer’s Name and Contact Information]

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**Email Invitation for IAR Sent to Reviewers New to Commons (Invitation to Recruitment Phase)**

**Subject: eRA Commons: IAR Conflict of Interest Check**

Dear Potential Reviewer,

Thank you very much for your consideration to participate as a reviewer on Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group **MEETING IDENTIFIER**.

**Purpose of Email**

This system-generated invitation to the eRA Commons Internet Assisted Review (IAR) web site grants you access to the Recruitment Phase of IAR for the purpose of:

- Viewing the list of applications, participating institutions and involved personnel.
- Indicating which applications, if any, you have or think you may have a conflict of interest (COI). The various types of COI you should consider are provided on the IAR website.
- Viewing application abstracts (if applicable)

After indicating potential COI in IAR, please contact the SRO if you have any questions or would like to discuss particular issues in more depth.

**Identifying Potential Conflicts**

**To indicate any COI in IAR (and to access the full meeting at a later date)**: You will need to log on to the eRA Commons Internet Assisted Review (IAR) web site with a user name and password. To establish that user name and password, we have set up a special URL address that is unique to you.

Please visit this web site to create your account as soon as possible so that you can identify any conflicts of interest. Open your Web browser and go to the URL [URL Listed Here].

Follow the instructions on the screen to enter information about yourself. You will also be asked to verify the public information that NIH has on file to ensure your information is both accurate and complete.
After submitting your registration request, you should receive a notification about your account activation within 2-5 business days; it will contain the URL for the eRA Commons website. At that time you will be able to access Internet Assisted Review with temporary password which will be sent to you in a separate email. Please note that you cannot use Internet Assisted Review until your account is active.

If you have questions or encounter problems accessing Internet Assisted Review, please call or email the NIH eRA Service Desk at 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552 or email commons@od.nih.gov.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

[Scientific Review Officer’s Name and Contact Information]

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**Account Creation Approval Sent to Reviewers New to Commons**

To: <Reviewer email>

Subject eRA <System Name>: Your reviewer account, <USERNAME>, has been activated

Dear Reviewer:

This is a system-generated invitation to the eRA <System Name> Internet Assisted Review (IAR) website in connection with your participation on Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group <insert meeting identifier> meeting, scheduled for <insert meeting begin/end dates>.

An eRA <System Name> account has been created for <USERNAME> with this User ID <User_ID>. This account gives you access to the eRA <System Name>, including Internet Assisted Review (IAR).

This is one of two emails you will receive that contains your login information. In accordance with our security policy, your username and password may not be sent in the same email.

Shortly, you will be receiving the second email from the eRA <System Name> containing your password.

Please open your Web browser and go to the eRA <System Name> URL <Login page> (You can copy and paste this address into the “Location” window of your browser, and press Enter). Follow the instructions on the screen to log in to eRA <System Name>. After successfully logging on, click on Internet Assisted Review on the <System Name> main menu bar. Please follow “Tips for Reviewers” <https://era.nih.gov/files/tips_processing_documents.doc> for submitting critiques.

Note: To process your reimbursement in a timely manner, please make sure that your banking information is complete. You can enter or update your personal banking information securely from eRA Commons. After you access eRA Commons (as described in the paragraph above) click on Personal Profile on the eRA Commons main menu bar. Then click Edit on the Reviewer Information section. On the Reviewer Payments subsection you will be provided with a link “Go to the Secure Payment Registration System” where you can verify
and/or update your personal banking information. In the process of verifying your account, the eRA had the following comments:

<Comments (if any)>

**Reviewer’s Workflow**

**Tip:** For instructions unique to Virtual Meetings (VM), see the information [here](#).

The reviewer’s workflow includes responsibilities before, during, and after the meeting, spanning the different phases of the meeting. The possible tasks for a reviewer are as follows:

- Create an eRA Commons account to access IAR
- Access the IAR List of Meetings screen
- Electronically sign the Confidentiality Agreement and indicate Federal Lobbyist status
- Examine assigned applications to determine/disclose any conflicts of interest (COI) and check for appropriateness of assignment for expertise
- Electronically sign the Pre-Meeting COI Certification
- Access the application electronically
- Find review related materials, such as review guidelines, rosters, etc.
- Find post-submission materials
- Submit critiques and scores
- Read other reviewers’ critiques
- View the Preliminary Score Matrix
- Submit final scores (usually during the review meeting)
- Edit critiques and scores
- Electronically sign the Post-Meeting COI Certification
IAR Meeting Phases

The process of reviewing applications is broken down into several meeting phases. The SRO* creates the phase dates in the IAR Control Center for each meeting. Before reviewers can see a meeting in IAR, the phases for the meeting must be set, the reviewer must have an active eRA Commons account, and the reviewer must be enabled for that meeting.

**Note:** All times are in Eastern Standard Time/ Eastern Daylight Time.

**Note:** Not all phases are used by every review meeting. While some meeting phases are required (Submit Phase, Read Phase), others are optional (Recruitment Phase, Edit Phase) at the SRO’s discretion. All possible meeting phases are discussed in the sections that follow.

**Note:** The Chair of a meeting is not granted any special privileges in IAR regarding access to critiques. During the Submit Phase, the Chair will only be able to view critiques for assigned applications. During the Read Phase, the Chair will be able to read all meeting critiques (unless blocked or in conflict). The List of All Applications defaults to show a reviewer’s assignment list, but the reviewers can see the full meeting list of applications by clicking on the List All Applications link. If a Chair has no assignments, they will need to click on List All Applications link to view all meeting critiques.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

### Recruitment Phase

The SRO* responsible for conducting the review meeting is required to select and assign reviewers for each application in the meeting. These reviewers must not have any real or apparent conflicts of interest (COI) with the applications they are reviewing. A COI in scientific peer review exists when a reviewer has an interest in or an association with a person involved with a grant, a cooperative agreement application, or an R&D contract proposal that is likely to cause a bias within the evaluation. If a reviewer has a conflict of interest with an application, they may not participate in its review.

For this reason, the Recruitment Phase was created. In the Recruitment Phase, potential reviewers are given access to view a list of involved personnel for a meeting and to self-identify any Conflicts of Interest before being selected as reviewers in those meetings.

**Tip:** The NIH Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, and Non Disclosure Rules can be accessed online at the following location: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/COI_Information.pdf](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/COI_Information.pdf). You may also review the Refer to the section of this document titled Certifying Conflicts of Interest on Page 115 topic in this online guide.
The Recruitment Phase is an optional phase enabled at the discretion of the SRO, usually ending with the start of the meeting or selection of a reviewer for the Submit Phase. The SRO invites the potential reviewers to participate in the Recruitment Phase, and when enabled for it, the reviewers are notified via an email invitation. In this phase, potential reviewers self-identify any COIs before being selected as reviewers and being given access to applications in the meeting.

When a potential reviewer is enabled by an SRO to participate in the Recruitment Phase of a meeting, the reviewer is notified of this invitation by email. The email sent to a reviewer differs depending on the status of the reviewer’s eRA Commons account. Refer to sample emails received by potential reviewers to see potential email formats and content.

**Recruitment Phase Workflow Summary:**

- Respond to the email invitation from SRO
- Create an eRA Commons account to access IAR (This is a one-time function. Do not create a new account if you already have an existing account.)
- Access the IAR List of Meetings screen
- Electronically sign the Confidentiality Agreement and indicate Federal Lobbyist status
- Examine assigned applications to determine/disclose any conflicts of interest (COI) and determine if the assignments are appropriate for your expertise
- Electronically sign the Pre-Meeting COI Certification
- Access the applications electronically
- Refer to the Reviewer's Workflow for subsequent steps performed in other phases of the meeting

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**Submit Phase**

During the Submit Phase, reviewers submit critiques and preliminary scores for their assigned applications. Reviewers can only view critiques and scores that they have submitted and cannot yet read the critiques of other reviewers; however, they may submit critiques for unassigned applications if permitted by the SRO*. Access to the critiques of other Reviewers is restricted during this phase to ensure that Reviewers begin the process with independently developed opinions. These actions are taken using the List of All Applications screen in IAR, which is discussed later in this document.

The Critique Due Date determines the end of the Submit Phase and is typically a few days to a week before the actual meeting date.

**Note:** Mail Reviewers can only see their assigned applications regardless of SRO settings.
**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**Read Phase**

During the Read Phase of a meeting, reviewers who have already submitted critiques for their assigned applications can view the critiques and scores of other reviewers. Reviewers may submit late critiques if they had not done so in the Submit Phase; however, Reviewers cannot modify or resubmit critiques or preliminary scores already submitted during the Read Phase.

Not all Reviewers can view all critiques, for example, Mail Reviewers may only view assigned applications. Reviewers may be blocked by SROs* from reviewing others’ critiques if their own have not been submitted. Reviewers are also excluded from viewing critiques of applications with which they are in conflict. Refer to the section of this document titled viewing critiques on page 63 for more information.

The Read Phase of the meeting begins immediately at the end of the Submit Phase and ends when the SRO designates, which usually is at the time the actual meeting ends.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**Edit Phase**

The Edit Phase is an optional phase enabled at the discretion of the SRO*. During the Edit Phase, reviewers may submit updated critiques for their assigned applications and read critiques posted by themselves and others. Additionally, reviewers can submit critiques for unassigned applications if permitted by the SRO*. As with the other phases, reviewers cannot submit critiques or view critiques if in conflict with the application.

**Note:** Preliminary score submission is not permitted in the Edit Phase after the actual meeting is held (start date of the actual meeting has passed). Criteria scores can be modified in this phase.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.
List of Meetings Screen

The *List of Meetings* screen in IAR is the first screen that reviewers see once they have accessed IAR. This screen is the starting point from which IAR related meeting information is obtained. Depending on the specific phase of a meeting or status of a reviewer, various links appear in *List of Meetings* for performing the necessary functions.

When a reviewer accesses IAR, the system searches meetings for which the reviewer is enabled and the meeting phase is active. These meetings display in the *List of Meetings*. If a reviewer is enabled for special types of meetings, these meetings display in a separate table of meetings, above the regular meetings.

IAR also checks to see if the reviewer has signed the electronic *Confidentiality Agreement*. Meeting information cannot be displayed to a reviewer until the *Confidentiality Agreement* is signed. If not signed, the *List of Meetings* displays only the meeting name and the *Confidentiality Statement* link in the *Action* column. The steps for completing the *Confidentiality Agreement* are discussed in further detail later in this chapter.

Global Navigation

A global navigation menu is present on the following screens: *List of Applications*, *List of Meetings*, *Meeting Materials*, and *Preliminary Score Matrix*. This may change dependent upon the user's role.
Accessing the List of Meetings Screen

To access the List of Meetings:

1. Log into eRA Commons and select the Internet Assisted Review tab.

The List of Meetings screen displays any meetings having an active phase and for which the reviewer is enabled. The details of the meeting, such as location and time, are also displayed. An array of links displays in the Action column, depending on the current status of the reviewer and/or meeting (for example, whether the reviewer has signed the Confidentiality Agreement, the current active meeting phase, type of meeting). These links are used for accessing additional meeting information.

2. First time accessing the meeting only: Select the Pre-Meeting COI Certification link in the Action column to sign the confidentiality agreement for the meeting. This agreement must be signed once for every meeting accessed by a reviewer. Refer to the section of this document titled Confidentiality Agreement on Page 19 for detailed steps on completing this process. (The Post-Meeting link will be signed when all meeting duties are complete.)

3. For Recruitment Phase meetings only: Select the Check Conflicts link in the Action column to indicate applications for which a conflict of interest exists. The Check Conflicts link displays only for meetings with an enabled Recruitment Phase.

The List of Meetings screen is displayed as a table of information. The columns are as follows:

Meeting
IAR for Reviewers

Displays meeting information such as meeting identifier and title.

**Meeting Dates/Location**
Displays the actual meeting dates as well as the location (hotel, city, state) of the review meeting.

**SRO Name**
Displays the name, phone number, and email address of the SRO. The SRO’s email address is displayed as a hyperlink and can be selected to open your default email provider and send an email to the SRO.

**Action**
Displays phase-appropriate links from which a reviewer can access all information and screens necessary for completing the review assignments in IAR. Not all links are displayed or available at all times or for all reviewers and vary depending on the active meeting phase and meeting type. The possible links are listed below, but are explained in detail throughout this user guide.

- Confidentiality Statement
- Check Conflicts
- View List of Applications
- Preliminary Score Matrix
- SRG Minutes/Budget Form
- Pre-Meeting COI Certification
- Post-Meeting COI Certification
- Meeting Materials
- View Password for Materials

**Phase**
This is the current IAR phase for the meeting (e.g., Recruitment, Submit, Read, Edit).

**Critique Due**
Displays the date and time at which critiques are due. This date also represents the end of the Submit Phase of the meeting.

**Read Phase End**
Displays the date and time at which the Read Phase ends.

**Edit Phase End**
Displays the date and time at which the Edit Phase ends.

*For special activity codes review, the following columns may be displayed instead of the ones listed above:*
IAR for Reviewers

# Apps

This column displays the number of applications associated with this meeting.

Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

Confidentiality Agreement

SAMHSA users - click here.

For each meeting for which a reviewer is enabled, IAR checks to determine if the Confidentiality Agreement has been electronically signed. The Confidentiality Agreement statement must be signed one time for each meeting, regardless of meeting phase. If the reviewer has not signed the agreement for a particular meeting, the Confidentiality Statement link displays in Action column on List of Meetings. This link accesses the Confidentiality Agreement.

List of Meetings

List of Meetings Screen 19 May 5, 2020
**Note:** The *Confidentiality Statement* links only displays if the reviewer has not signed the agreement for the meeting. The links are removed once the agreement is signed.

In IAR, reviewers are required to indicate whether they are federally registered lobbyists before being granted access to a meeting. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policy requires a ban on the appointment of federally registered lobbyists to federal advisory committees and other boards and commissions. The steps for signing the agreement vary depending on this designation. The *Confidentiality Agreement* explains this process and prompts reviewers to provide a status before electronically signing the agreement and gaining access to the meeting.

Follow the appropriate steps as indicated in the sections that follow.

**Reviewer is Not a Federally Registered Lobbyist**

To access and sign the *Confidentiality Agreement* and indicate that you are NOT a federally registered lobbyist:

1. Select the *Confidentiality Statement* link from the *Action* column on the *List of Meetings*.

The *Confidentiality Agreement* displays. This screen contains the *NIH Confidentiality and Non Disclosure Rules*. Please read the agreement carefully.

2. Select the radio button indicating **I am NOT a federally registered lobbyist**.

3. Click the **I agree** button at the bottom of the screen.

The *List of Meetings* screen returns with the *Action* links appropriate for the meeting.
Reviewer is a Federally Registered Lobbyist

A federally registered lobbyist whose term falls within the dates of a review meeting cannot be granted access to the review meeting. A reviewer’s status as a federally registered lobbyist must be indicated on the Confidentiality Agreement screen.

To access and sign the Confidentiality Agreement and indicate that you ARE a federally registered lobbyist:

1. Select the Confidentiality Statement link from the Action column of the List of Meetings.

The Confidentiality Agreement displays. This screen contains the NIH Confidentiality and Non Disclosure Rules. Please read the agreement carefully.

2. Select the radio button indicating I am a federally registered lobbyist, the meeting date falls within my term.

3. Click the I agree button at the bottom of the screen.
The Registered Lobbyist Verification screen displays. This screen shows that you have indicated that you are a federally registered lobbyist and explains the purpose for requesting the lobbyist status of reviewers. The screen provides a link for accessing additional information on this topic.

The Registered Lobbyist Verification screen also provides a chance to confirm or cancel this designation.
**Note:** Once you have indicated your status as a federally registered lobbyist, you will be denied access to the meeting. You will not have the ability to reverse the status yourself. If you mistakenly designate yourself as a federally registered lobbyist, you must contact the eRA Service Desk for assistance.

4. **Only if you have accessed this screen and are NOT a federally registered lobbyist:** Select the Cancel/Return button to return to the List of Meetings screen. Refer to the section of this document titled Reviewer is Not a Federally Registered Lobbyist on Page 20 to continue.

5. **Only if you want to continue to confirm your status as a federally registered lobbyist:** Select the Confirm/Continue button.

The List of Meetings screen returns, displaying Access Denied: Federally Registered Lobbyist in the Action column. The SRO* receives an email whenever a potential reviewer designates himself as a federal lobbyist; however, it is a good idea to contact the SRO directly in this situation.

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**Conflicts of Interest**

The NIH peer review process relies on reviewers to identify any conflicts of interest (COI) that may affect the integrity of the process. The rules for identifying COIs can be found online at the following site: [https://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer_coi.htm](https://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer_coi.htm).

Reviewers should report to the SRO* any conflicts of interest they might have with any of the applications in the meeting. If the meeting has a Recruitment Phase, conflicts can be identified and recorded by selecting the Check Conflicts link from the Action column on the
**List of Meetings**. This link is only available if Recruitment Phase has been enabled for the meeting.

Reviewers not participating in Recruitment Phase must report any COIs to the SRO. For phases other than Recruitment, follow the steps below.

1. From the List of Meetings screen, select the **List of Applications: By Application** link from the **Action** column.

   The List of All Applications screen displays, with the reviewer’s assigned applications as the default display.

2. Select the List All Applications link to display all applications in the meeting. This is important for determining if COIs exist for any other applications.

3. Examine the applications:
   
   a. Select the grant number – displayed as a hyperlink – to open the **Grant Folder** for the application.
   
   b. From within **Grant Folder**, select the **e-Application** link to access the application.
   
   c. Look over the names of PIs and all Senior/Key personnel to identify any conflict.
   
   d. Repeat this process for all applications in the meeting.
   
   e. Notify your SRO of any conflicts identified.
**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*
List of All Applications Screen

The *List of All Applications* screen lets reviewers view information about the applications in the meeting and provides access to such actions as submitting and viewing scores and critiques. The information shown on this page is customized based on the current meeting phase and on the meeting permissions set by the SRO*. Available information also varies depending on the reviewer type and a reviewer’s conflicts of interest.

**Global Navigation**

A global navigation menu is present on the following screens: *List of Applications, List of Meetings, Meeting Materials, and Preliminary Score Matrix*. The list of links may change, dependent upon the user’s role.

Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*

**Accessing the List of All Applications Screen**

To access the *List of All Applications* after signing the confidentiality agreement *(Refer to the section of this document titled Confidentiality Agreement on Page 19)*:

1. Log into eRA Commons and select the Internet Assisted Review tab.
   
   The *List of Meetings* screen displays. If accessible, the View List of Applications link is displayed in the Action column.

2. Select the View List of Applications link.
By default, the *List of Applications: By Application* screen initially shows only the applications assigned to the reviewer; however, in later phases of the meeting, IAR provides access via this screen for viewing all applications in the meeting if the SRO* has opened the meeting for unassigned critiques.

To view all applications in the meeting, select the *List All Applications* link. To determine which is the current view, look for the orange triangle icon (üp) next to either the link for *List All Applications* or the *List My Assignments Only* link. The current view is indicated by this triangle icon.
Note: Mail reviewers are only able to see applications to which they are assigned and can only view their own critiques.

Both views display information for the applications in the meeting. The meeting title, identifier, and phase as well as meeting dates and critique dates display above the list of applications.

Below this information are links for List of Meetings, View Meeting Materials, and links for viewing critiques, which vary from phase to phase. These links are discussed later.

The table displayed on the screen is the List of My Assigned Applications. This list includes columns of information for Review Order; Application (including the application number and RFA/PA associated with the application); PI Name (parent application PI); Early Stage Investigator (ESI) indicator; New Investigator (NI) indicator; the Title of the application; Assignment Role of the reviewer; Prelim. Score; the Submitted Date of critiques; and the available Action options for the reviewer.

If a column name is displayed as a link (e.g., PI Name), the information in the table can be sorted by the column by selecting that link. An orange triangle icon (¶) next to the column name indicates the current sort.
The application number is displayed as a hyperlink. Selecting this link opens the application Grant Folder, from which several other options are available for viewing including the e-application, prior summary statements (if existing), and any e-additions that have been added for the application.

**Action** options include [submit], [view], and [update] depending on whether a reviewer is allowed to submit or has already submitted a critique.

The **Submitted Date** column shows the latest date when the critique for an application was (re)submitted.

The **Assignment Role** for an application displays **COI** if the reviewer has a conflict of interest with personnel of the application. Links for submitting, viewing, and deleting critiques are not displayed for these applications. In addition, the existence of a specific type of conflict (CD Conflict) will suppress the link to the application’s Grant Folder.

The **List of All Applications** screen (among others) provides access to the tools necessary for completing tasks in each phase. As such, the look and functionality of this screen may vary depending on a reviewer’s role and the current meeting phase.

Please refer to the other sections within this chapter for details on the links and actions available from this screen for each specific meeting phase.
The following links display on the *List of All Applications* screen regardless of the current meeting phase:

![List of My Assigned Applications](image)

**Global Navigation**

A global navigation menu is present on the following screens: *List of Applications, List of Meetings, Meeting Materials, and Preliminary Score Matrix*. This may change dependent upon the user’s role.

- **List of Applications**
  - Updates the screen to show all the applications in the meeting, regardless of the current reviewer’s assignments. This is not available for Mail reviewers and reviewers blocked by the SRO from viewing others’ critiques before submitting their own. The orange triangle icon next to the link indicates that this is the current view.

- **List of Meetings**
  - Returns the user to the *List of Meetings* screen.

- **Meeting Materials**
  - An SRO can provide reviewers with links and documents containing relevant information for the review meeting. If the SRO has provided materials, they are accessible through this link.

- **Preliminary Score Matrix**
  - The *Preliminary Score Matrix* screen option is only visible in Read phase. It allows a reviewer to see the preliminary overall/impact scores assigned by other reviewers for all applications in which the reviewer is not in conflict.
Each page includes a number of links specific to that page.

The other links include links to critiques, critique templates, and application options:

**View Critique Options**

- **View My Critiques**
  - Opens a PDF document containing all of a reviewer’s preliminary critiques and scores.

- **View Critiques by:**
  - Opens critiques by **Application, PI name, All the Reviewers' critiques** and by **Assigned Applications**.

- **Download a Zip of My Assigned Critique Templates**
  - Downloads a compressed file containing all of the critique templates associated with the applications assigned to you. When the file is extracted, the individual templates will follow this naming convention:
    - [reviewer last name]_[application number]_[reviewer role]
    - e.g. **Smith_1R01123456-01_Pri_4.docx**. )If a reviewer has no assigned role, that part of the file name will be dropped.)

- **List Applications Options** (Submit Phase) or **List My Assignments Only** (Read and Edit Phases)
  - Updates the screen to show only: **List all Applications**, or the applications assigned to the reviewer. This is the default view of the screen. The orange triangle (▲) icon next to a link indicates this is the current view.

**Column Headings**

The column headings bar contains functionality, including:

- Where headings are underlined, this indicates that they can be sorted.
- If they contain orange triangle icons, this indicates this is the current view.
- The **Collapse All** heading

**Additional Materials**

The Additional Materials link displays within the **Title** column (beneath the application title) if the application has at least one eAddition in its **Grant Folder**. The link opens the Additions for Review section of the Grant Folder.

**Tip:** To keep track of any additional material added without checking back every time, simply look for the date displayed within the link. This represents the Latest eAdditions Date.
Final Score Sheet (button)

Opens the Final Score Sheet for entering final impact scores as well as criterion scores. This button is only enabled during the period of final scoring as entered by the SRO in IAR and may not be applicable to all meetings. The button is visible but disabled outside of final scoring or if final scoring is not used for a meeting.

Note: The Final Score Sheet button does not display on your List of All Applications if you are a Mail reviewer.

Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

Finding a Reviewer's Assigned Role

Reviewers may have different responsibilities at review meetings depending on their roles. Please check with your SRO* if you have questions or concerns about your role. To identify your assignment role, look in the Assignment Role column of the List of All Applications.
Assignment Roles in List of All Applications screen

Possible roles and associated responsibilities are as follows:

**Primary/Reviewer 1, Secondary/Reviewer 2 and Tertiary/Reviewer 3 (sometimes also designated as Discussant):**

- Review your assigned applications
- Write and submit critiques and scores for assigned applications
- Read critiques from other assigned reviewers
- Be prepared to discuss the score driving strengths and weaknesses

**Discussant**

- Read and understand the critiques of the assigned applications
- Provide a short written review if the SRO asks for one

**Mail-In Reviewer**

- Check with your SRO
- Provide a written critique for the applications assigned and maybe submit preliminary criterion and/or impact scores.

**Chair**

- Review the abstract and aims of all applications, and discuss any issues or changes in review policy/guidelines with the SRO
- Write critiques and submit scores for the specific applications assigned to them (can be
Reviewer 1, 2 or 3 for any given assignment

- Follow up on any other chair-specific instructions provided by the SRO

This information can also be found on the Guidance for Reviewers website, Know Assignment Role page.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*

**List of All Applications in Submit Phase**

During the Submit Phase of a meeting, reviewers perform their initial submission of critiques. They may also modify critiques and preliminary scores during the Submit Phase. Viewing all applications and submitting critiques as an unassigned reviewer may be permitted by the SRO*; however the ability to view others’ critiques is not available during this phase.

The List of All Applications screen is the portal for allowing reviewers to submit critiques and preliminary scores, as well as view meeting materials. The screen either lists only applications assigned to the reviewer (List Assigned Applications link and default view) or lists all applications in the meeting (List All Applications link) unless the reviewer is a Mail reviewer. Mail reviewers can only see applications for which they are assigned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review Order</th>
<th>Application Act/IC/Ser#</th>
<th>PI Name</th>
<th>CT</th>
<th>PI Status</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Assignment Role</th>
<th>Submitted Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>R01 A123456-01</td>
<td>PI Name -1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Title of Meeting</td>
<td>Rev 1</td>
<td>06/10/2016 01:49 PM</td>
<td>submit, view delete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>R01 A123456-01</td>
<td>PI Name -2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Title of Meeting</td>
<td>Rev 3</td>
<td>06/10/2016 03:35 PM</td>
<td>submit, view delete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>R01 A123456-01</td>
<td>PI Name -3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Title of Meeting</td>
<td>Rev 2</td>
<td>06/10/2016 10:52 PM</td>
<td>submit, view delete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The options in the Action column for the Submit Phase include the [submit], [view], and [delete] links. The [submit] option is only available if a reviewer has not submitted a
critique or scores; once a critique is submitted, the options become [view] or [delete]. Refer to the section of this document titled Submitting Critiques and Scores on Page 44 for steps on performing this function.

If the SRO allows it, reviewers may see the [submit] link for unassigned applications (via the List All Applications view). In this case, reviewers can submit critiques for these unassigned applications, unless there is a conflict of interest. If conflicts exist for any of the applications, COI displays in the Assignment Role column, and critiques for this application cannot be viewed or submitted.

**Note:** In all meeting phases, for specific types of review, if the SRO has opted to display only applications selected for Phase 2 review, the List of All Applications screen reflects this choice and displays only Phase 2 applications. The screen name is displayed as List of All Applications – Phase 2 Only in this scenario.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA)* - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**List of All Applications in Read Phase**

Typically, reviewers are able to view the critiques of other reviewers during the Read Phase. As in other phases, any applications with a conflict are blocked and display COI as the Assignment Role. By default, only the reviewers’ application assignments are displayed in the
list; however, selecting the **List All Applications** link presents a view of all applications in the meeting.

**Note:** To return to a view of only assigned applications, select the **List My Assignments Only** link. An orange triangle icon (△) next to this link (or next to the **List All Applications** link) is an indicator of which of these two options is the current view.

---

**List of My Assigned Applications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go To:</th>
<th>Choose One →</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Meeting Information**

- **Meeting Title:** Neuroscience Review Subcommittee
- **Meeting Identifier:** 2018/01 AA-4
- **Meeting Phase:**
- **Meeting Dates:** 09/15/2017 - 10/24/2017
- **Criticizes Due:** 10/12/2017 09:00 PM
- **Eastern Standard Time / Eastern Daylight Time**

**View Critique Options:**
- View My Critiques
- Download a Zip of My Assigned Critique Templates

**List Application Options:**
- List All Applications
- List My Assignments Only
- Final Score Sheet (Enabled only during Final Scoring)

**Filter:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review Order</th>
<th>Application Acc#/Serial# Re:</th>
<th>PI Name</th>
<th>CT</th>
<th>ESI</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>[Latest Additions Date]</th>
<th>Average Score</th>
<th>Role/Score/Action</th>
<th>Collapse All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1B21AA123456-01A1 RFA/PA: PA16-161 My Assignment Role: PI 1</td>
<td>LOVE, MIA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Determining the role of PACAP neuronal populations in alcohol drinking using PACAP-Cre mice</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td><a href="#">Click to submit/view/update critique</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1U01AA123456-01A1 RFA/PA: PA16-214 My Assignment Role: PI 1</td>
<td>MICOLOWAN, ANGELA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Translational study on Ch-RNA5 variation and alcohol reward mechanisms</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td><a href="#">Click to submit/view/update critique</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the reviewer has submitted scores for an application, the **View All Critiques – [PDF]** link displays in the **Application** column for that application. This link can be used to access a PDF file of all reviewer’s critiques for this application. When setting up the meeting, the SRO* can choose to block a reviewer from viewing the critiques of others if that reviewer has not yet submitted his own scores. If the SRO chooses not to block the reviewer, this link displays whether the reviewer has submitted his own scores or not.

When the block option is enabled by the SRO and a reviewer has not submitted critique and preliminary scores, the following message displays under the application **Title** column: *You must submit your critique before you can read others.* The **View All Critiques – [PDF]** link will not display until the reviewer submits his own scores. Additional links on this screen for
viewing critiques also do not function if a blocked reviewer has not submitted his own scores and/or critique.

The options displayed in the Action column for the Read Phase may differ from those displayed during the Submit Phase. They may also vary within the Read Phase itself depending on the settings of the meeting and whether the reviewer has submitted scores. If a reviewer has not yet submitted scores, the [submit] link displays in the Action column, otherwise the [view] link is displayed for viewing only. If a critique is submitted, the [view] link is also present for other reviews not submitted by the reviewer.

Refer to the section of this document titled Viewing Critiques on Page 63 for more information on the methods for viewing critiques within each phase of the meeting.

During the Read Phase of the meeting, the Prelim. Score column lists each application’s preliminary score per Reviewer Role. The Average score is displayed beneath these scores. reviewers may also view scores via the Preliminary Score Matrix, accessible via the Preliminary Score Matrix link. Refer to the section of this document titled Preliminary Score Matrix on Page 69 for more information.

Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract.
but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**List of All Applications in Edit Phase**

The Edit Phase is an optional meeting phase, usually after the actual meeting – determined by the SRO* – the main purpose of which is to allow reviewers to update their criterion scores and/or to upload their modified critiques after editing. In the Edit Phase of a meeting, the List of All Applications screen provides the basic information about the applications in the meeting, access to the Grant Folder, the list of all applications, critiques posted by the reviewer, and critiques posted by all reviewers for applications to which the reviewer is assigned.

The screen either lists applications assigned to the reviewer (List My Assignments Only link and default view) or lists all applications in the meeting (List All Applications link) unless the reviewer is a Mail reviewer. Mail reviewers can only see applications for which they are assigned.

The options in the Action column for the Edit Phase vary depending on the settings of the meeting and whether the reviewer has submitted scores, with the possible options of [submit], [view], and [update] links. The [submit] option is only available if a reviewer has not submitted a critique or scores. Refer to the section of this document titled Submitting Critiques and Scores on Page 44 for steps on performing this function.

Once a critique is submitted, the options become [view] and [update] for a reviewer’s own critiques and [view] for the critiques of other reviewers.
**Note:** If not blocked by the SRO, the reviewer also sees the [view] link for viewing others’ critiques even if that reviewer has not submitted his own.

If conflicts exist for any of the applications, COI displays as the Assignment Role, and critiques for this application cannot be viewed or submitted.

If the reviewer has submitted scores for an application, the View All Critiques – [PDF] link displays in the Application column for that application and provides access to a PDF file of all reviewer’s critiques for this application. When setting up the meeting, the SRO can choose to block a reviewer from viewing the critiques of others if that reviewer has not yet submitted his own scores. If the SRO chooses not to block the reviewer, this link displays whether the reviewer has submitted his own scores or not.

**Note:** When final scoring is enabled for a meeting, the Final Score column displays on the List of All Applications during the Edit phase.

![List of My Assigned Applications](image.png)

When the block option is enabled by the SRO and a reviewer has not submitted scores, the following message displays under the application Title column: You must submit your critique before you can read others. The View All Critiques – [PDF] link will not display until the reviewer submits his own scores.

To update scores or critiques during the Edit Phase:

1. Select the [Update] link from the Action column for the application in the List of All Applications screen.

List of All Applications Screen  
May 5, 2020
2. *Optional:* Enter the revised criterion scores as appropriate.

3. *Optional:* Browse and attach a new critique. To view the existing critique first, select the **View Existing Critique** link.

4. Select the **Submit** button.

5. From the confirmation screen, select the **Confirm** button.

**Note:** During the EDIT phase, the **View Discussion** link will display discussion comments in a read-only format until the scoring window has ended.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) -* Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.
Meeting Materials

Once an SRO adds materials to a meeting, reviewers can view and download those materials from the Meeting Materials screen. There are two ways to access the Meeting Materials screen:

1. From the List of Meetings screen, select the Meeting Materials link in the Action column, or

2. From the List of All Applications screen in any phase, select the Meeting Materials link from the Go To: drop down menu.

The Meeting Materials screen displays a list of all available meeting materials. If the SRO enables it, a Download Meeting Materials ZIP button displays.

If critique templates are included in the materials, they appear in their own expandable section above other materials. Select the + Critique Templates button to expand the list of critique templates. When the list is expanded, the button becomes the - Critique Templates button and collapses the list again.
**Note:** Additional materials that may not show up under Meeting Materials can be viewed by selecting the **Additional Materials** link under the **Title Column** on the List of All Applications. The link only displays when at least one eAddition exists for an application. For more information, refer to the **Additional Materials** section of the Accessing the List of Applications Screen topic.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*

## View the Meeting Materials ZIP File Access Code

Downloaded Meeting Materials are secured by an Access Code that is set by the SRO.

You can view the Access Code for a meeting's downloaded ZIP file directly from the List of Meetings page. In the meeting's **Action** column, select the View Access Code for Materials ZIP link. The View Access Code for Meeting Materials window opens and displays the meeting's Access Code.
Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.
Submitting Critiques and Scores

IAR allows reviewers to submit or re-submit critiques and scores for assigned applications during the Submit and Edit Phases. During the Read Phase, reviewers who have missed the due date and have not posted a critique or criterion scores for an assigned application are still able to post critiques and criterion scores; however, they will not be able to view the other critiques for this application until they have posted their own.

Before submitting critiques and scores for an application, the reviewer can view additional information about the application by accessing the application Grant Folder. From the Grant Folder, several options are available for viewing including the e-application, prior summary statements (if existing), and any e-additions that have been added for the application. To view the Grant Folder, click the application number displayed as a hyperlink. Select the appropriate link from within the Grant Folder to view additional information.

The manner in which critiques and scores are recorded may differ depending on the type of review meeting in which you are participating. NIH business processes differ from those of other agencies and therefore require a different set of rules. Pioneer, New Innovator, and pre-applications review meetings may also have varying steps in their review process. The sections that follow outline steps specific to the type of meeting or business process and are not applicable to all reviewers.

Click here to see SAMHSA-only Critique submission

Review with Scored Criteria (NIH Review Business Process)

Preliminary Scores and Critiques

For the Scoring System and Procedure for NIH guidance only, select the following link: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/scoring_system_and_procedure.pdf.


NIH and the majority of Operating Divisions (OpDivs) followed the Enhancing Peer Review initiative, characterized by the existence of scored review criteria and a score scale of 1–9. While there may be more than five review criteria, only five need to be scored in IAR according to scientific and technical merit. These categories differ depending on the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and activity code of the applications. Reviewers provide separate scores for each category on a scale of 1 to 9, where 1 is exceptional and 9 is poor.

This section discusses submitting scores and critiques and may not be applicable to all Reviewers.
To submit critiques and scores:

1. Select the **View List of Applications** link from the *List of Meetings* screen for the specific meeting.

   The *List of All Applications* screen displays, showing only the applications assigned to the reviewer.

2. **Optional**: Select the **List All Applications** link to display all applications in the meeting.

3. Select the **[submit]** link from the *Action* column for the application being reviewed.

The *Submit Critique and Preliminary Score* screen displays for entering scores and uploading a critique. To exit the screen without entering scores or critique, select the **Back to List of Applications** link at the top of the screen.
Note: During the final scoring and the Edit Phase of a meeting, the preliminary overall/impact score is displayed as read-only; however, the criterion scores and critique file can still be modified. For meetings allowing final scoring, the Final Score also displays during the Edit phase, as read-only above the Critique File.

4. Optional: Select a criterion score (1–9) from the drop-down lists for each of the five categories. These categories are determined by the RFA/PA associated with the application.

5. Optional: Select a preliminary score (1–9) from the drop-down list for the Preliminary Overall/Impact.

6. Optional and Only if Top 5 Designation is applicable: Select the Top 5 checkbox to designate the application as one of the top 5. This checkbox is located next to the Preliminary Overall/Impact field only if enabled by the SRO*.

If 5 other applications have already been designated as Top 5, IAR displays the following error: You have already designated 5 applications in the Top 5 category. Please clear the Top 5 designation from existing application(s) to designate this
application as Top 5. In this case, access the other Top 5 applications via the List of All Applications screen and uncheck the Top 5 checkbox as appropriate.

When designating an application as Top 5, you must also submit a critique for that application.

7. Upload a critique file by selecting the Browse button, searching for the file, and selecting. You can only upload MS Word or Text files (.doc, .docx, .txt).

8. Select the Submit button.

Note: Selecting the Reset button clears the fields.

The Submit Critique and Preliminary Score screen then displays as read-only and prompts for a confirmation. The entered information can be canceled by selecting the Cancel button. Selecting Cancel returns the screen to an edit view on which scores can be re-entered and/or a new critique file attached.

The score and/or critique are not saved until the action is confirmed on this screen.

If IAR cannot upload the selected critique (e.g., the file is an invalid format or a virus has been identified on the file), an error displays.

9. Select the Confirm button to continue uploading the scores and critique.
The *Submit Critique and Preliminary Score* screen displays again as read-only, indicating that the information was successfully submitted. The critique file can be viewed on this screen by selecting the **View this submitted critique** link next to the file name.

10. Select the **Back to List of Applications** link to exit this screen.

![Submit Critique and Preliminary Score](image)

- Important Note: Your critique and/or score are not saved until you press Confirm below. Please verify the following data and press Confirm to save your information (critique and/or score). Otherwise, press Cancel.
When returned to the *List of All Applications*, the **Action** column displays the `[submit]`, `[view]`, and `[delete]` links.
Critique Preliminary Score, Submitted Date, and New Actions for Submitted

Reviewers may view their own critiques and scores as well as those of other Reviewers (when permitted) once they have uploaded them. The manner in which critiques are viewed differs from phase to phase. Refer to the section of this document titled Viewing Critiques on Page 63 for a description of the phase-specific method of viewing critiques.

**Note:** If the pre-meeting COI certification has not been signed, a warning displays on the Submit Critique and Preliminary Score screen as follows: Please sign your pre-meeting Conflict of Interest Certification in IAR system. Refer to the help topic titled, Certifying Conflicts of Interest on Page 115 for more information.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**Final Score Sheet (formerly called Voter Sheet)**

If allowed by the SRO*, reviewers are able to submit final scores electronically in IAR within the score entry date and time range determined by the SRO for the meeting. These final scores are entered using the Final Score Sheet. The Final Score Sheet allows reviewers to
enter their final impact scores as well as criterion scores (if permitted by the SRO) if they changed as a result of the discussion. Scores may be entered for assigned and unassigned applications; however, the system does not allow entry of scores for any application with which a reviewer is in conflict.

At the time of the final scoring, the **Final Score Sheet** button becomes enabled on the *List of All Applications* screen.

![List of My Assigned Applications](image)

If the reviewer has not signed the pre-meeting COI, an alert message will be displayed with a link taking the reviewer to the certification for that meeting.

![Final Score Sheet](image)

To submit final scores:

1. Access the *List of All Applications* screen in IAR.
2. Select the **Final Score Sheet** button. This button is displayed on the screen only for
reviewers allowed to submit final scores and only during the score entry date range for the meeting.

The Final Score Sheet screen opens for all applications in the meeting, showing Review Order, Application Number, PI Name, Assignment Role (of the reviewer), Criterion Scores (if available), and Final Score fields. The information in the table can be sorted by selecting the hyperlinked column name of the information being sorted by. An orange triangle (▲) icon displays next to the column heading of the current sort.

![Final Score Sheet](image)

**Note:** When applicable, if the SRO has opted to display only Phase 2 applications, the Final Score Sheet includes only those applications and the title displays as Final Score Sheet – Phase 2 Applications Only.

The Criterion Scores Label Report link opens the Review Criteria Score Labels report for the meeting. This report displays all applications per each RFA/PA in the meeting with a key defining the scores for each of the RFA/PAs (e.g., Score 1 – Significance; Score 2 – Investigator(s), Score 3 – Innovation, etc.).

Final Scores may be entered for all applications in the meeting, assigned or unassigned; however, for applications with which a reviewer is in conflict, the Final Score field displays a read-only CF and this final score cannot be updated. Deferred applications (those marked as DF) also display with their Final Score field as read-only as soon as the score is saved.
The ability to update criterion scores varies and may not be available for all applications. SROs must set up the meeting to allow criterion scores to display. Additionally, several business rules are in place to ensure that the criterion scores are only displayed based on the meeting settings configured by the SRO.

**The rules for displaying criterion scores are as follows:**

- If the assigned reviewer has not submitted a critique before final scoring, criterion score fields are not displayed.
- If unassigned reviewers are permitted to submit scores (i.e., only scores – no critiques), the criterion score fields are displayed and editable.
- If unassigned reviewers are permitted to submit scores with a critique required as backup, but have not submitted their required critique before final scoring, criterion score fields are not displayed.
- If unassigned reviewers are permitted to submit scores with a critique required as backup and have submitted their required critique, criterion score fields are displayed and editable.
- If a Discussant is required to submit a critique to support criterion scores and has not submitted the required critique before final scoring, the criterion score fields are not displayed.
- If a Discussant is required to submit a critique to support criterion scores and has submitted the critique before final scoring, criterion score fields are displayed and editable.
- If a reviewer is in conflict with an application, criterion score fields are not displayed.
- If an application already is scored as DF, criterion score fields are not displayed.

**Note:** The SRO determines whether to show subproject applications during final scoring. If the SRO has allowed subprojects to be scored, these applications display on the Final Score Sheet screen.

3. **Optional:** Update the existing **Criterion Scores** as needed.

4. **Enter a Final Score** for each application.

   Final scores may be entered numerically as 1 to 9 –or– with one of the following score codes below:
ND – Not Discussed: All applications in a meeting are required to receive scores. Applications lacking the quality necessary to be discussed at review meetings should be designated as ND.

NR – Not Recommended: Applications marked NR are not recommended for further consideration.

DF – Deferred: Applications marked deferred are moved to the next council round.

NP – Not Present: The reviewer was not present at the meeting when the application was discussed and is unable to give a score.

AB – Abstain: The reviewer is abstaining from scoring the application.

5. Select the **Save All** link from the **Action** column or the **Save All** button at the bottom of the screen to save the changes. All updated information is saved by selecting either **Save All** feature.

Selecting the **Cancel** button at any time ignores the unsaved changes and closes the **Final Score Sheet** screen.

6. To save changes and leave the screen, select the **Save All and Return** button.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*
IAR for Reviewers

Review Criteria Score Labels Report

For reviews using scored criteria, the Review Criteria Score Labels report provides a key to the scores as defined by the different RFAs/PAs in the meeting (e.g., Score 1 – Significance; Score 2 – Investigator(s), Score 3 – Innovation, etc.). The report is divided by RFA/PA, showing the score definition as well as the applications submitted under that opportunity.

You can access the report by selecting the Criterion Scores Label Report link on the Final Score Sheet, which opens the report as a PDF in a separate window.

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Submiting Critiques and Scores 55 May 5, 2020
Review Without Scored Criteria

Preliminary Scores

Some Operating Divisions (OpDivs) utilize the Review Business Process with no scored criteria, which differs from the NIH Review Business Process in that it does not use criterion scores, only a Preliminary Score, followed by final scoring. Scores consist of numeric values from 1.0 to 5.0 and/or non-numeric scores.

For meetings using the Review Business Process with no scored criteria, unassigned reviewers can only submit critiques and cannot enter scores.

This section discusses submitting scores and critiques for the Review Business Process with no scored criteria and may not be applicable to all reviewers.

To submit critiques and scores using the Review Business Process with no scored criteria:
1. Select the **View List of Applications** link from the *List of Meetings* screen for the specific meeting.

   The *List of All Applications* screen displays, showing only the applications assigned to the reviewer.

2. **Optional:** Select the **List All Applications** link to display all applications in the meeting.

3. Select the **[submit]** link from the *Action* column for the application being reviewed.

The *Submit Critique and Preliminary Score* screen displays for entering a preliminary score and uploading a critique. To exit the screen without entering scores or critique, select the **Back to List of Applications** link.

**Note:** During the Edit Phase of a meeting, scores are displayed as read-only; however, a critique file can still be uploaded.

4. **Optional and Only if Top 5 Designation is applicable:** Select the **Top 5** checkbox to designate the application as one of the top 5. This checkbox is located next to the *Preliminary Overall/Impact* field only if enabled by the SRO.
If 5 other applications have already been designated as Top 5, IAR displays the following error: *You have already designated 5 applications in the Top 5 category.* Please clear the Top 5 designation from existing application(s) to designate this application as Top 5. In this case, access the other Top 5 applications via the *List of All Applications* screen and uncheck the *Top 5* checkbox as appropriate.

When Designating an application as Top 5, you must also submit a critique for that application.

5. Upload a critique file by selecting the *Browse* button, searching for the file, and selecting.

6. Enter a score of **1.0–5.0** in the *Preliminary Score* field.

7. Select the *Submit* button.
Submit Critique and Preliminary Score

Application: 1 R01 A123456-01
Title: Title of Application
PI Name: PI Name
Assignment Role: Sec 1
Critique File: Browse... e P01 - project 1 - R1.docx
Preliminary Score (1.0 to 5.0):

Before Submitting:
- Ensure that your critique file is not password protected
- If applicable, accept all track changes, save and turn Track Changes OFF before uploading your critique
- Please close the critique file on your computer

Submit Reset

Note: Selecting the Reset button clears the fields.

The Submit Critique and Preliminary Score screen displays as read-only and prompts for a confirmation. The entered information can be canceled by selecting the Cancel button. Selecting Cancel returns the screen to an edit view on which scores can be re-entered and/or a new critique file attached.

The score and/or critique are not saved until the action is confirmed on this screen.
Note: If the pre-meeting COI certification has not been signed, a warning displays as follows: Please sign your pre-meeting Conflict of Interest certification in IAR system. Refer to the help topic titled Signing the Meeting Conflict of Interest Forms for more information.

If IAR cannot upload the selected critique (e.g., the file is an invalid format or a virus has been identified on the file), an error displays.

8. Select the Confirm button to continue uploading the scores and critique.

   The Submit Critique and Preliminary Score screen displays again as read-only, indicating that the information was successfully submitted. The critique file can be viewed on this screen by selecting the View this submitted critique link next to the file name.

9. Select the Back to List of Applications link to exit this screen.

10. When returned to the List of All Applications, the Action column displays the [submit], [view], and [delete] links.

    Reviewers may view their own critiques and scores as well as those of other Reviewers (when permitted) once they have uploaded them. The manner in which critiques are viewed differs from phase to phase. Refer to the help topic titled Viewing Critiques for a description of the phase-specific method of viewing critiques.

Final Score Sheet (previously called Voter Sheet)

If allowed by the SRO, Reviewers are able to submit final scores electronically in IAR within the score entry date range determined by the SRO for the meeting. These final scores are entered using the Final Score Sheet. Scores may be entered for assigned and unassigned applications; however, the system does not allow entry of scores for any application with which a reviewer is in conflict.

At the time of the final scoring, the Final Score Sheet button becomes enabled on the List of All Applications screen.
To submit final scores:

1. Access the *List of All Applications* screen in IAR.

2. Select the *Final Score Sheet* button. This button is displayed on the screen only for Reviewers capable of submitting final scores and only during the score entry date range for the meeting.

   The *Final Score Sheet* screen opens for all applications in the meeting, showing **Review Order**, **Application Number**, **PI Name**, **Assignment Role** (of the reviewer), and **Final Score** fields. The information in the table can be sorted by selecting the hyperlinked column name of the information being sorted by. An orange triangle (▲) icon displays next to the column heading of the current sort.

   **Note:** When applicable, if the SRO has opted to display only Phase 2 applications, the *Final Score Sheet* includes only those applications and the title displays as *Final Score Sheet – Phase 2 Applications Only*.

Final Scores may be entered for all applications in the meeting, assigned or unassigned; however, for applications with which a reviewer is in conflict, the **Final Score** field displays a read-only *CF* and this final score cannot be updated. Deferred applications (those marked as *DF*) also display with their **Final Score** field as read-only.
**Note:** The SRO determines whether to show subproject applications during scoring. If the SRO has allowed subprojects to be scored, these applications display on the *Final Score Sheet* screen.

3. Enter a **Final Score** for each application.

Final scores may be entered numerically as 1.0 to 5.0 –or– with one of the following score codes below:

**UN** – Unscored: All applications in a meeting are required to receive scores. Applications lacking the quality necessary to be discussed at review meetings should be designated as UN.

**NR** – Not Recommended: Applications marked NR are not recommended for further consideration.

**DF** – Deferred: Applications marked deferred are moved to the next council round.

**NP** – Not Present: The reviewer was not present at the meeting when the application was discussed and is unable to give a score.

**AB** – Abstain: The reviewer is abstaining from scoring the application.

4. Select the **Save All** link from the **Action** column or the **Save All** button at the bottom of the screen to save the changes. All updated information is saved by selecting either **Save All** feature.

Selecting the **Cancel** button at any time ignores the unsaved changes and closes the *Final Score Sheet* screen.
5. To save changes and leave the screen, select the **Save All and Return** button.

**Viewing Critiques**

Reviewers have the ability to view critiques in IAR for all applications in a meeting. This ability may vary depending on the type of reviewer, the status of the reviewer’s own critique submission, the SRO’s meeting settings, or the IAR phase of the meeting. For example, a reviewer cannot view the critiques of any application with which he is in conflict; Mail Reviewers can only view their own critiques; and SROs can block the view of others’ critiques if a reviewer has not submitted his own.

The list below describes the various ways – for each meeting phase – in which critiques may be viewed in IAR.

**Note:** All methods may not be available to all Reviewers.

**Submit Phase**

During the Submit Phase, Reviewers can view their own critiques one by one via the *List of All Applications* screen by selecting the *view* option in the **Action** column of an individual application. Selecting this option opens a PDF document of the reviewer’s critique for the specified application.

**Read and Edit Phases**

During the Read and Edit Phases, a reviewer may be able to view his own critiques for each application in the meeting individually; all meeting critiques merged into one file; all critiques for a specific application merged into one file; all of his submitted critiques merged into one file; or all critiques for a reviewer’s assigned applications merged into one file.
The following is a list of possible methods for viewing critiques while in the Read and Edit Phases. It should not be assumed that all methods are available to all Reviewers.

- **[View]** option in the **Action** column of an individual application
  
  Selecting this option opens a PDF document of a reviewer’s critique for the specified application. A **[view]** link is provided for each available reviewer’s critique. Missing links indicate that a critique is not available or that the reviewer does not have access to it.

- **View All Meeting Critiques: By Appl** link
  
  Displayed only if the SRO has unblocked the reviewer in the meeting **Control Center**.
  
  Selecting this option opens a PDF document of all critiques for all applications in the meeting – not just those submitted by the reviewer or applications assigned to the reviewer. The critiques are ordered by application number, with a secondary sort by reviewer role. If the reviewer is in conflict with an application, the critiques for that application are omitted from the document.

- **View All Meeting Critiques: By PI** link
  
  Displayed only if the SRO has unblocked the reviewer in the meeting **Control Center**.
  
  Selecting this option opens a PDF document of all critiques for all applications in the meeting – not just those submitted by the reviewer or applications assigned to the reviewer. The critiques are ordered by the last name of the applications’ PIs, with a secondary sort on the reviewer assignment role. Multi-project applications are sorted by the parent application’s PI. If the reviewer is in conflict with an application, the critiques for that application are omitted from the document.

- **View My Critiques** link
  
  Selecting this option opens a PDF document of all critiques submitted by the reviewer, regardless of assignment.

- **View All Critiques for Assigned Applications** link
  
  Displayed only if the SRO has unblocked the reviewer in the meeting **Control Center**.
  
  Selecting this option opens a PDF document of all critiques submitted for applications assigned to the reviewer. This includes the critiques of other Reviewers for these applications.

- **View All Critiques – [PDF]** link
Selecting this option opens a PDF document of all critiques from all Reviewers for the specified application. The critiques are ordered by the reviewer assignment role. If the reviewer is in conflict with an application, this link is not displayed.

If the reviewer has not submitted scores, and the SRO has enabled the block feature for the reviewer, the [view] link is not present in the Action column and the View All Critiques – [PDF] link is not displayed. These links also are not available when a reviewer is in conflict with an application.

Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**Deleting Scores and Critiques**

During the Submit Phase of a meeting, reviewers possess the ability to delete their own previously submitted critiques or scores. This is particularly useful in the event that a critique and/or scores were entered for the wrong application or need to be revised.

**IMPORTANT:** The **Delete** link should only be used when the reviewer needs to remove both the critique and criteria scores. Reviewers may not realize that deleting the critique also deletes the criteria scores, which the system does not allow to exist without a critique.

If only the critique needs to be replaced, it is not necessary to follow the deletion steps below. Deleting the critique is not necessary before submitting a new one. If only the critique needs replacing, the **[submit]** link on the List of All Applications screen should be used. Refer to the section of this document titled Submitting Critiques and Scores on Page 44 for more information.

**Note:** During the Edit Phase, scores and critiques can be modified using the **[update]** link. Refer to the section of this document titled List of All Applications in Edit Phase on Page 38 for more information.

To delete critiques and/or scores:

1. Access the List of All Applications screen for the meeting.

2. Locate the application from the list, and select the **[delete]** link from the Action
The **Delete Critique/Score** screen displays options for deleting (refer to the Note below):

- **Critique and Top 5 designation (if any)**
- **Score and Top 5 designation (if any)**
- **Critique, Score, and Top 5 designation (if any)**

**Note:** Based on business rules in place, the **Critique and Top 5 designation (if any)** option may or may not be available for meetings following the NIH review business process (i.e., using scored criteria). The ability to delete only critiques is available if the assigned reviewer is a Discussant and the SRO* has set the option to allow Discussants to submit scores without critiques –or– if the reviewer is an unassigned reviewer and the SRO has set the option to allow Unassigned Reviewers to submit scores without critiques. For agencies outside of NIH (i.e., those following the old business process without scored criteria), the option is always available.

3. Select the radio button for the appropriate delete action and select the **Submit** button.
A confirmation screen displays before the delete is committed. The Note on the screen indicates what will happen if the action is continued. Review this information to make sure the correct option has been selected and that the correct data is being removed.

4. Select the **Continue** button to continue the action. Selecting **Cancel** will abort the deletion.
When continued, IAR displays a confirmation of what has been deleted. The top of the screen displays *Operation Completed Successfully*. Scores are removed and/or the uploaded PDF of the critique is deleted as appropriate, based on the delete option selected. If a critique is deleted, the Preliminary Summary Statement* is updated with the deleted critique removed. In the event that only scores have been deleted, the critique PDF document is updated to reflect the change in scores.

5. Select the **Back to List of Applications** link to return to the list of applications.
**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA)* - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**Preliminary Score Matrix**

Based on preliminary/overall impact scores entered by reviewers, the SRO* designates applications for the SRG to consider for streamlining.

In the *Preliminary Score Matrix*, a reviewer can see the preliminary overall/impact scores assigned by other reviewers for all applications in which the reviewer is not in conflict. The *Preliminary Score Matrix* also provides a means for viewing only those lower half applications as designated by the SRO. The *Preliminary Score Matrix* is available during the Read Phase from the *List of All Applications* screen by selecting the *Preliminary Score Matrix* link from the Go To: menu.

**Note:** Mail reviewers cannot access the *Preliminary Score Matrix*.

For each application in the meeting, the *Preliminary Score Matrix* displays all preliminary overall/impact scores from worst to best score as well as average score. If a reviewer has not submitted scores and the SRO has blocked access to reviewers who have not submitted scores, IAR blocks the scores for these applications in the AVG and *Preliminary Overall/Impact Scores [Worst to Best]* columns. A message *You are blocked from seeing scores* displays in the *Preliminary Overall/Impact Scores [Worst to Best]* column instead.
The information on the screen can be sorted by either **Review Order**, **Application Number**, **PI Name**, **Lower Half** designation, or **AVG** (average score of assigned reviewers). Select the hyperlink in the column title to specify the sort.

**Note:** In the case of Pioneer Meetings, if the SRO has indicated that only Phase 2 applications should be displayed, then the Preliminary Score Matrix displays only Phase 2 applications. In this case, the title of the screen reads as Preliminary Score Matrix – Phase 2 Only.

The Preliminary Score Matrix includes specific links for navigating away from the screen or for changing the view of the information on the screen. The links are as follows:

**Show Lower Half Only**

Select this link to view only those applications designated as lower half. The lower half applications display in a Worst to Best order.
Export to Excel

Select this link to export the Preliminary Score Matrix to Microsoft Excel. The Excel version opens in a separate window with the same data as displayed on the screen in IAR.

Global Navigation

A global "Go To:" navigation menu is present on the following screens: List of Applications, List of Meetings, Meeting Materials, and Preliminary Score Matrix. The list of links may change, dependent upon the user's role.
**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*
IAR for Reviewers

SAMHSA-Only Topics

The collection of topics contained within the SAMHSA-Only Topics group provide steps for completing SAMHSA review meeting activities where these functions are specific to SAMHSA review meeting processes. These are SAMHSA-specific processes; for other steps, please follow the general NIH processes outlined in the online help.

The following link to specific SAMHSA-only topics.

- SAMHSA Meeting: Reviewers' Workflow
- SAMHSA - Confidentiality Agreement
  - SAMHSA - Reviewer is a Lobbyist
  - SAMHSA - Reviewer is NOT a Lobbyist
- SAMHSA - List of All Applications
- SAMHSA - Applying Critiques and Scores
  - Submitting SAMHSA Scores and Critiques
  - SAMHSA - Qualitative Assessment Definitions

Submitting Scores and Critiques

To submit critiques and scores:

1. Locate the application from the list of Assigned applications and select the Submit link.

![List of My Assigned Applications](image)
The *Submit Critiques and Scores* screen displays for the reviewer. Use the **Back to List of Applications** link if you wish to exit the screen without making changes.

![Submit Critiques and Scores screen](image)

### Scores

2. **Enter scores**: Enter a score in the corresponding field of the Score column. Scores can range from 0 to the criterion's point value.

   **Tip**: If re-entering scores, you can use the **Reset** button to first clear the criterion fields.

3. **Upload a critique file**: by selecting the **Browse** button, searching for the file and selecting. You can upload MS Word or Text files (.doc, .docx, .txt). Instructions for upload are available in the first accordion on the screen named Instructions. It is collapsed by default, but can be expanded by clicking on the horizontal bar.
**Note:** If an uploaded critique already exists, the **View Existing Critique** link displays under the **Browse** button. It opens a PDF version of your assessment of that application.

4. Select the Submit button.

The screen updates to display read-only scores and critique file. This serves as a confirmation to submit the scores and critique. Selecting **Cancel** at this point will cancel the submission.
5. Select the Confirm button to continue submitting.

If submitting is successful, the screen updates to display the message *The following information has been successfully submitted* with the read-only scores and critique file information below it. The View Existing Critique link displays below the Critique File field.

If unsuccessful, the screen will display an error message.

**Potential error messages.**
- Criterion Score must be less than or equal to the criterion's Point Value
- Critique is required when submitting scores. Please upload a critique file for this application.
- Screen accepts only critique templates file types meeting current system requirements on NIH Submit Critique and Preliminary Score screen (.doc, .docx, .txt and any other file types currently accepted)
• Although you did not enter a score with your critique, you may do so at any time during the Submit phase. Simply click Submit from the List of Applications and enter only your scores. Your previously submitted critique will be retained.

• Critique cannot be processed. Possible cause: file is password protected. Please remove password protection and upload critique again.

• Critique cannot be processed. Possible cause: file is corrupt. Please verify the file can be opened without errors in Microsoft Word. If you continue having problems please contact Commons help desk.

• Critique cannot be processed. The file you are attempting to upload is OPEN BY ANOTHER APPLICATION. Please close the file and try uploading again

• Critique cannot be processed. Please accept all changes before uploading.

• Critique cannot be processed. Please contact the [era service desk].

• You must select a score for every criterion before you can submit.

6. Select the **Back to List of Applications** link at the top of the screen to exit.

The reviewer information is updated for the application. Once the critique and scores are submitted, the options in the **Action** column on the list of applications will display **[submit]**, **[view]** (only if critique exists), and **[delete]** links.

---

**SAMHSA Critiques and Scores**

The *Submit Critiques and Scores* screen enables SAMHSA reviewers to submit critiques and apply scores to an application during the Submit and Edit phases of the meeting.

SAMHSA's reviewers will score applications based on criteria with point values, depending on the assessment of the application as outstanding through unacceptable. The weights - called **Criterion Point Values** - are a percentage of 100 with the sum of all criteria weights totaling 100.

Reviewers of SAMHSA score applications based on categories called criteria. Each criterion is assigned a point value, which translates to a percentage of 100, and the criteria differ depending on the Funding Opportunity Announcement for which the application was submitted.
Reviewers provide scores for each individual criterion not to exceed the criterion’s point value.

The criteria are displayed on the screen along with the following:

- Score column for entering each criterion’s score
- Criterion Point Value, which represents the max number of points that can be assigned to the criterion
- Criterion Point Value ranges, which indicates the range of value points associated with each qualitative assessment (e.g., Outstanding, Very Good, etc.)

**Note:** For the definition of the qualitative assessment values, select the ‘?’ next to the Qualitative Assessment Definitions label.

The SAMHSA Submit Critique and Scores screen allows Reviewers to:

- see the application information, including number, title, business official, and your assignment role
- view a Criterion Point Value Chart specific to the point values of the application's criteria
- enter criterion scores based on the specific point value of each criterion
- see the current Raw Score
- search and select attach a critique file (i.e., assessment form) from your local device for uploading
- view an attached critique file
- link to the Qualitative Assessment Definitions
- see Important Reminders
- submit critique and scores
- reset the scores

**Criterion Scores**

A criterion's score must be between 0 (minimum) and its Criterion Point Value as the maximum.

The Criterion Point Value Chart (without half points).
If the total point value for a Review Criterion is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Value</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Marginal</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1-0</td>
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<td>89-80</td>
<td>79-70</td>
<td>69-60</td>
<td>59-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An explanation of the Quantitative Assessment Definitions can be found [here](#).

**SAMHSA - Qualitative Assessment Definitions**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualitative Assessment</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outstanding</strong></td>
<td>All criteria are thoroughly addressed, strongly developed, and well-supported. Documentation and required information are specific and comprehensive. Application is extremely strong with insignificant weaknesses. Weaknesses identified will likely have no impact on the successful implementation of the proposed project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Very Good</strong></td>
<td>Criteria are thoroughly addressed with necessary detail and clearly supported. Documentation and required information are specific and feasible. Application is very strong with only some minor weaknesses. Weaknesses identified will likely have minor impact on the successful implementation of the proposed project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Submitting Critiques and Scores**

May 5, 2020
### Submitting Scores and Critiques

To submit critiques and scores:

1. Locate the application from the list of **Assigned** applications and select the **Submit** link.
The Submit Critiques and Scores screen displays for the reviewer. Use the Back to List of Applications link if you wish to exit the screen without making changes.
IAR for Reviewers

Submit Critiques and Scores

Scores

2. **Enter scores:** Enter a score in the corresponding field of the Score column. Scores can range from 0 to the criterion's point value.

   **Tip:** If re-entering scores, you can use the **Reset** button to first clear the criterion fields.

3. **Upload a critique file:** by selecting the **Browse** button, searching for the file and selecting. You can upload MS Word or Text files (.doc, .docx, .txt). Instructions for upload are available in the first accordion on the screen named Instructions. It is collapsed by default, but can be expanded by clicking on the horizontal bar.
Note: If an uploaded critique already exists, the **View Existing Critique** link displays under the **Browse** button. It opens a PDF version of your assessment of that application.

4. Select the Submit button.

The screen updates to display read-only scores and critique file. This serves as a confirmation to submit the scores and critique. Selecting **Cancel** at this point will cancel the submission.
5. Select the **Confirm** button to continue submitting.

If submitting is successful, the screen updates to display the message *The following information has been successfully submitted*: with the read-only scores and critique file information below it. The **View Existing Critique** link displays below the Critique File field.

If unsuccessful, the screen will display an error message.

**Potential error messages.**
- Criterion Score must be less than or equal to the criterion's Point Value
- Critique is required when submitting scores. Please upload a critique file for this application.
- Screen accepts only critique templates file types meeting current system requirements on NIH Submit Critique and Preliminary Score screen (.doc, .docx, .txt and any other file types currently accepted)
Although you did not enter a score with your critique, you may do so at any time during the Submit phase. Simply click Submit from the List of Applications and enter only your scores. Your previously submitted critique will be retained.

Critique cannot be processed. Possible cause: file is password protected. Please remove password protection and upload critique again.

Critique cannot be processed. Possible cause: file is corrupt. Please verify the file can be opened without errors in Microsoft Word. If you continue having problems please contact Commons help desk.

Critique cannot be processed. The file you are attempting to upload is OPEN BY ANOTHER APPLICATION. Please close the file and try uploading again.

Critique cannot be processed. Please accept all changes before uploading.

Critique cannot be processed. Please contact the eRA Service Desk.

You must select a score for every criterion before you can submit.

6. Select the Back to List of Applications link at the top of the screen to exit.

The reviewer information is updated for the application. Once the critique and scores are submitted, the options in the Action column on the list of applications will display [submit], [view] (only if critique exists), and [delete] links.

Confidentiality Statement

For each meeting for which a reviewer is enabled, IAR checks to determine if the Confidentiality Agreement has electronically signed the Confidentiality Agreement.

The Confidentiality Agreement statement must be signed one time for each meeting, regardless of meeting phase. If the reviewer has not signed the agreement for a particular meeting, the Confidentiality Statement link displays in Action column on List of Meetings. This link accesses the Confidentiality Agreement.
Note: The Confidentiality Statement link only displays if the reviewer has not signed the agreement for the meeting. This link is removed once the agreement is signed.

In IAR, reviewers are required to indicate whether they are federally registered lobbyists before being granted access to a meeting. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policy requires a ban on the appointment of federally registered lobbyists to federal advisory committees and other boards and commissions. The steps for signing the agreement vary depending on this designation. The Confidentiality Agreement explains this process before electronically signing the agreement and gaining access to the meeting.

Reviewer is a Federally Registered Lobbyist

A federally registered lobbyist whose term falls within the dates of a review meeting cannot be granted access to the review meeting. A reviewer’s status as a federally registered lobbyist must be indicated on the Confidentiality Agreement screen.

To access and sign the Confidentiality Agreement and indicate that you ARE a federally registered lobbyist:

1. Select the Confidentiality Statement link from the Action column of the List of Meetings.

The Confidentiality Agreement displays. This screen contains the SAMHSA Confidentiality and Nondisclosure Rules. Please read the agreement carefully.
Confidentiality Agreement ●
Meeting: 2016/10 ZRG1 ACE-K (01)

Step A: LOBBYIST STATUS
☐ I am NOT a federally registered lobbyist. [See Answer A] at this site: http://www.regulations.gov/FederalRegisterFOIA-2016-01935.pdf
☐ I am a federally registered lobbyist the meeting date falls within my term.

Step B: CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

NIH Confidentiality and Nondisclosure Rules: Information for Reviewers of NIH Grant Applications and R&D Contract Proposals

Rules related to the confidentiality of information disclosed to advisory committee members in the course of NIH peer review include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sharing applications, proposals, or meeting materials with anyone who has not been officially designated to participate in the peer review meeting, including but not limited to colleagues, lab members, fellow students, applicants, recruiters or employees of the institution.

- Disclosing any information about the committee deliberations, discussions, evaluations, or documents to anyone who has not been officially designated to participate in the peer review meeting, including but not limited to colleagues, lab members, fellow students, applicant, recruiter or employee of the institution.

- Disclosing any information about the Committee deliberations, discussions, or evaluations related to an application or proposal to another member who has not been officially designated to participate in the peer review meeting, including but not limited to colleagues, lab members, fellow students, applicant, recruiter or employee of the institution.

- Using information contained in any application or proposal for the personal benefit or making such information available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization.

- Disclosing application or proposal information prior to the award of a contract.

- Participating in NIH peer review without signing a confidentiality certification.

The NIH may take steps in response to a violation of the above rules, in order to preserve the integrity of the NIH review process. Depending on the specific circumstances, such steps may include but are not limited to:

- Notifying or requesting information from a reviewer's institution.

- Terminating a reviewer's service.

- Notifying the NIH Office of Management Assessment (OMA) with possible referral to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG).

- Pursuing a referral for government-wide suspension or debarment.

Certification

I certify that I have read, and understand, the "NIH Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Rules: Information for Reviewers" above. With the understanding that any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties (18 USC 1001). I certify that I fully understand the confidential nature of the NIH peer review process, including peer review meeting, and agree:

1. To destroy, delete, and/or return all materials related to applications or proposals, associated materials made available to reviewers, information and materials related to the recruitment process or review, reviewers' evaluations, and discussions during review meetings.

2. To disclose or discuss the applications or proposals, associated materials made available to reviewers, information and materials related to the recruitment process or review, reviewers' evaluations, and discussions during review meetings with any member of the NIH, who has not been officially designated to participate in the peer review meeting access to any NIH secure computer system or peer review meeting.

3. To disclose or discuss any information contained in any application or proposal for the personal benefit or make such information available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization.

4. To disclose or discuss any information contained in any application or proposal for the personal benefit or make such information available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization.

5. To disclose or discuss any information contained in any application or proposal for the personal benefit or make such information available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization.

6. To disclose or discuss any information contained in any application or proposal for the personal benefit or make such information available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization.

7. To disclose or discuss any information contained in any application or proposal for the personal benefit or make such information available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization.

2. Select the radio button indicating **I am a federally registered lobbyist, the meeting date falls within my term.**

3. Click the **I agree** button at the bottom of the screen.

The **Registered Lobbyist Verification** screen displays. This screen shows that you have indicated that you are a federally registered lobbyist and explains the purpose for requesting the lobbyist status of reviewers. The screen provides a link for accessing additional information on this topic.

The **Registered Lobbyist Verification** screen also provides a chance to confirm or cancel this designation.
Note: Once you have indicated your status as a federally registered lobbyist, you will be denied access to the meeting. You will not have the ability to reverse the status yourself. If you mistakenly designate yourself as a federally registered lobbyist, you must contact the eRA Service Desk for assistance.

4. Only if you have accessed this screen and are NOT a federally registered lobbyist: Select the Cancel/Return button to return to the List of Meetings screen. Refer to the section of this document titled Reviewer is Not a Federally Registered Lobbyist on Page 20 to continue.

5. Only if you want to continue to confirm your status as a federally registered lobbyist: Select the Confirm/Continue button.

The List of Meetings screen returns, displaying Access Denied: Federally Registered Lobbyist in the Action column. The Review Administrator receives an email whenever a potential reviewer designates himself as a federal lobbyist; however, it is a good idea to contact the Review Administrator directly in this situation.
Reviewer is Not a Federally Registered Lobbyist

To access and sign the Confidentiality Agreement and indicate that you are NOT a federally registered lobbyist:

1. Select the Confidentiality Statement link from the Action column on the List of Meetings.

The Confidentiality Agreement displays. This screen contains the SAMHSA Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Rules. Please read the agreement carefully.

1. Select the radio button indicating I am NOT a federally registered lobbyist.

2. Click the I agree button at the bottom of the screen.

The List of Meetings screen returns with the Action links appropriate for the meeting.
SAMHSA - List of My Assigned Applications

The List of All Applications screen lets reviewers view information about the applications in the meeting and provides access to such actions as submitting and viewing scores and critiques. The information shown on this page is customized based on the current meeting phase and on the meeting permissions set by the SRA. Available information also varies depending on the reviewer type and a reviewer’s conflicts of interest.

Accessing the List of My Assigned Applications Screen

To access the List of All Applications after signing the confidentiality agreement (refer to SAMHSA Confidentiality Agreement):

1. Log into eRA Commons and select the Internet Assisted Review tab.

The List of Meetings screen displays. If accessible, the View List of Applications link is displayed in the Action column.

2. Select the View List of Applications link.
By default, the List of All Applications screen initially shows only the applications assigned to the reviewer; however, in later phases of the meeting, IAR provides access via this screen for viewing all applications in the meeting if the SRO* has opened the meeting for unassigned critiques. To view all applications in the meeting, select the List All Applications link. To determine which is the current view, look for the yellow triangle (▲) icon next to either the link for List All Applications or the List Assigned Applications link. The current view is indicated by the triangle icon.

Both views display information for the applications in the meeting. The meeting title, identifier, and phase as well as meeting dates and critique dates display above the list of applications.

Below this information are links for View Critique Options, and List Application Options, which vary from phase to phase.

The List of ALL Applications table lists applications with columns on information for Review Order; PSS Preliminary Summary Statement; Application Number (including the associated RFA/PA); PI Name Parent Application Name; CT Clinical Trial; ESI Early Stage Investigator indicator; NI New Investigator indicator; HFT Human Fetal Tissue indicator (the column does not appear if no application in the list has this flag); Title of the application; Assignment Role of the reviewer; Preliminary Score; the Submitted Date of critiques; and the available Action options for the reviewer.

For Type 3 competitive applications linked to a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI), a link to that NOSI appears in the Application Number column.

Where column names are displayed as links (e.g., PI Name), click to sort the table information by that column. An orange triangle icon (▲) next to the column name indicates the current sort.
The application number is displayed as a hyperlink. Selecting this link opens the application Grant Folder, from which several other options are available for viewing including the e-application, prior summary statements (if existing), and any e-additions that have been added for the application.

**Action** options include [submit], [view], and [delete] depending on whether a reviewer is allowed to submit or has already submitted a critique.

The **Assignment Role** for an application displays COI if the reviewer has a conflict of interest with personnel of the application. Links for submitting, viewing, and deleting critiques are not displayed for these applications. In addition, the existence of a specific type of conflict (CD Conflict) will suppress the link to the application’s Grant Folder.

The **List of All Applications** screen provides access to the tools necessary for completing tasks in each phase. As such, the look and functionality of this screen may vary depending on a reviewer’s role and the current meeting phase.

The following links display on the List of All Applications screen regardless of the current meeting phase:
IAR for Reviewers

**List of Meetings**

Returns the user to the *List of Meetings* screen.

**List All Applications**

Updates the screen to show all the applications in the meeting, regardless of the current reviewer’s assignments. This is not available for Mail reviewers and reviewers blocked by the SRO from viewing others’ critiques before submitting their own. The yellow triangle (⚠️) icon next to the link indicates that this is the current view.

**List Assigned Applications** (Submit Phase) or **List My Assignments Only** (Read and Edit Phases)

Updates the screen to show only the applications assigned to the reviewer. This is the default view of the screen. The yellow triangle (⚠️) icon next to the link indicates that this is the current view.

**View My Critiques / View All Critiques for Assigned Applications**

Opens a PDF document containing all of a reviewer’s preliminary critiques and scores.

**Additional Materials**

The Additional Materials link displays within the Title column (beneath the application title) if the application has at least one eAddition in its Grant Folder. The link opens the Additions for Review section of the Grant Folder.

![Additions for Review](image)

**Tip:** To keep track of any additional material added without checking back every time, simply look for the date displayed within the link. This represents the Latest eAdditions Date.

**Final Score Sheet** (button)

This button is not applicable to SAMHSA users.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) -* Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.
SAMHSA Meeting - Reviewers’ Workflow

Reviewers attending SAMHSA’s initial review group meetings have responsibilities before, during, and after the meeting, spanning the different phases of the meeting. The following outlines a high level process for a SAMHSA meeting reviewer and the links to the appropriate online help topic.

- Create an eRA Commons account to access IAR
- Access the IAR List of Meetings screen
- Electronically sign the Confidentiality Agreement and indicate Federal lobbyist status
- Find review-related materials, such as review guidelines, rosters, etc.
- Access the applications
- Submit critiques and scores
- Read other reviewers’ critiques
- Edit critiques and scores

Refer to these other SAMHSA-specific help topics for more information:

- SAMHSA - Confidentiality Agreement
  - SAMHSA - Reviewer is a Lobbyist
  - SAMHSA - Reviewer is NOT a Lobbyist
- SAMHSA - List of All Applications
- SAMHSA - Applying Critiques and Scores
  - Submitting SAMHSA Scores and Critiques
  - SAMHSA - Qualitative Assessment Definitions

May 5, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Overview

Virtual Meetings are designed to enable reviewers to participate in the review process without the need to travel to a common geographic meeting location.

The VM-specific phases (see Phases and Options) will only appear for meetings that are coded as Virtual.

Additionally, VM-specific pages (Announcements, Manage Topics, VM List of Applications, VM Discussion Dashboard, etc.) will also only appear for meetings coded as Virtual.

Phases & Options

In addition to the standard, SUBMIT, READ, and EDIT phases for all meetings, there are two additional required phases (Introduction and Discussion) and one conditional sub-phase (Cluster Discussion) that are utilized for Virtual Meetings.

Note: All times are in Eastern Standard Time/ Eastern Daylight Time.

- **INTRODUCTION Phase** - This required phase occurs after the READ phase and before the DISCUSSION phase.
  - **Business**: During this phase, reviewers can "rescue" applications that the SRO/ESA* has designated as "Lower Half" so that they can be discussed.
  - **SRO/ESA**: If the Meeting Chair has a conflict with any application in the meeting, the SRO/ESA can designate an "Application Chair" for the discussion of that application.

- **DISCUSSION Phase** - This is a required phase, and must occur after INTRODUCTION.
  - **Business**: Reviewers are granted access to participate in a sequential *OR* asynchronous discussion of applications on individual application discussion boards.
    - Sequential: SRO/ESA has designated specific Cluster DISCUSSION Start/End times AND/OR review order.
    - Asynchronous: No specific Cluster DISCUSSION Start/End times AND/OR no review order.

- **Cluster DISCUSSION Phase** - When a review meeting has applications that have been grouped by cluster, the SRO has the ability to set discreet DISCUSSION phases specifically for each cluster. Unless specifically noted in the "Cluster Discussion Dates" portion of the Meeting Information header, cluster discussion dates will default to the length of the entire DISCUSSION phase.
- **SRO/ESA** provides input only when needed on Discussion Forum, and the SRO can edit posts.
- **SRO/ESA** assigns “Application Chair” per application basis if Meeting Chair has Conflict with an application.
- **SRO/ESA** makes a change to meeting procedures – SRO/ESA posts a meeting-wide announcement to clarify.
- **SRO/ESA** pauses meeting if necessary.
  - If the meeting is placed on Hold, the Meeting Wide Announcements section will display a message with the hold information similar to the one below. Another announcement will be automatically posted when the SRO resumes the meeting.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA)* - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.
List of Applications (VM)

To access the list of meetings, click on the Internet Assisted Review tab in the eRA Commons menu bar.

Next, click on the link to "View List of Applications" from the Action column in the list.

Note: Virtual Meeting List of Applications (My Assigned or All) is only visible during INTRODUCTION and DISCUSSION phases. During the traditional IAR phases, reviewers will see the traditional List of Applications screen. During Virtual Meeting-specific phases the traditional List of Applications screen will not be accessible.

For Virtual Meeting, reviewers may choose to list only the applications to which they have been assigned or they may choose to list all applications. The following sections are available ;
1. **Information Bar**

   This bar contains the **Go To:** menu as well as the meeting identifier.

2. **Meeting Information** (collapsible section)

   Included here are the Meeting Title, Identifier, Phase, and Dates. The SRO*, Workgroup (if applicable), and the Critique Due date are also included.

3. **Announcements** (collapsible section)

   If the SRO/ESA has posted messages for the reviewer, they will be located in this section. The right side of this bar will show the total of unread messages out of the total number. The messages are automatically refreshed every three minutes. New messages will be marked with [](0x0) and the total of unread will drop to "0" once the announcements are open. The new announcement indicator will be removed at the next refresh.
4. **Meeting Status**

This area will provide the date, time, and current status of the meetings. Note that the HOLD status is not removed automatically and may remain after the indicated expiration time if the SRO has not re-enabled the meeting.

5. **Links to Critiques**

The links to critiques are the same as those for face-to-face meetings. Please see the [Viewing Critiques](#) section for additional information.

Once a reviewer has submitted their own critiques for an application, the "View All Critiques" link will appear in the **Documents** column for that application.

6. **List Options**

The reviewer may select to list only the applications they have been assigned (default) or they may choose to list all of the applications for the meeting. The orange triangle icon (▲) will indicate which list is being viewed.

7. **Table of applications**

- Above this table is the time of the last data refresh. A manual refresh can also be done by un-checking and then re-checking the "Refresh" option located above the meeting table.
- The lower half of the set of applications can be hidden/unhidden by toggling the "Lower Half" check box under the last refresh time at the top of the table.
- Meeting Clusters are listed above the left side of the table and allow the list to be filtered by selecting a cluster or All applications in the meeting. When there are no clusters, only the "All" option will be visible.
The first four columns of the table are sortable by that column header and the current sort column is identified by an orange triangle (●). The column headers are: (click each header name for more information)

- **Review Order/DO**
  - Shows the order in which each application and component will be reviewed. If a Discussion order has been set by the SRO, the column header will be DO. If only a Review order or no order has been set, the column header will be Review Order.

- **Cluster**
  - Indicates the cluster containing the application in meetings where the SRO has created clusters.

- **Application Number**
  - This column will show the application number, component, and funding opportunity number.

- **PI Name**
  - The Lead PI for the application

- **Unread/Total**
  - This shows the number of discussions comments that are unread out of the total number of discussion comments.

- **Discussion**
  - The two buttons that will display here are Go To Discussion or Rescue Application. If Go To Discussion is selected, the Virtual Meeting Discussion Board page for that application will open. If the SRO has allowed it, and the meeting is in the proper stage, "lower half" applications will have the Rescue Application button and may be "rescued" so that they are available to be discussed. The "Hide Lower Half" checkbox above the table will need to be de-selected in order to view the applications that may be rescued.

- **ND Candidate (Lower Half)**
  - If the "Hide Lower Half" check box above the table is not checked, this column will show all applications in the meeting and the meetings that are in the lower half will have a "Y" in that column.

- **Documents**
  - If available, links will be available here for any applicable documents related to that application. Clicking on these links will open in a new window or tab or they will be downloaded for review.

- **Role**
  - The values in the column reflect the role of the logged-in reviewer for each application.
Note: Below the table of applications is a link to allow the SRO/ESA to be contacted in situations where any conflict or assignment issues are noticed with IAR.

Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

Application Chair

As in traditional review meetings, the Meeting Chair serves as the moderator of the discussion of scientific and technical merit of the applications being reviewed. The Meeting Chair is also a peer reviewer for the meeting.

In situations where the chairperson has a conflict on an application, the SRO* will assign an Application Chair role to another reviewer for that application.

Tip: *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

Rescue Applications

Applications that are in the lower half will have a "Y" in the ND Candidate (Lower Half) column of the Virtual Meeting List of Applications page.

Note: If you are not assigned the lower half application which you wish to rescue, you will need to click on the "List All Applications" link in order to see it.

During the INTRODUCTION Phase, these applications can be rescued to be included in the DISCUSSION Phase.

If the SRO* has set the appropriate option, this action can also be taken during the DISCUSSION Phase.

For these applications, instead of seeing the Go To Application button in the Discussion [Rescue or go to Discussion] column, you will see a Rescue button instead.

If the Rescue button is clicked, a warning message will be displayed to confirm that you wish to remove this application from the Lower Half list.
Clicking OK will then move that application out of the Lower Half so that it can be discussed.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

### Scoring

**Preliminary Scores**

The process for entering "Preliminary Scores" remains the same as with traditional meetings. However, there is an additional *Discussion Initial Comments* text box in the **Submit Critiques and Scores** page for Virtual Meeting applications. This is where reviewers have the option to provide comments to help to initiate discussion of the application prior to the start of the DISCUSSION phase. These comments can be submitted when the reviewer submits their critique as well as during the READ phase. During the READ phase, the *Initial Comments* link will appear in the **Action** column to facilitate this process. All other fields on the screen, other than the "Discussion Initial Comments" text box, will be disabled.

To access the **Submit Critiques and Scores** page, click on the "Submit" (or Initial Comments) link in the **Role/Score/Actions** column of the **List of Applications** page. The **Discussion Initial Comments** box will be under the application information. Enter any comments, provide preliminary scores, attach the critique file, and then click on the **Submit** button.
**Discussion Scores**

For Virtual Meetings, reviewers will provide discussion scores on the main *Virtual Meeting Discussion Dashboard* screen. These are numeric scores that the reviewers use to indicate current enthusiasm for the application. They are informative only and carry no weight in the final scoring. Reviewers may update their discussion score multiple times throughout the DISCUSSION phase.

The general scoring process for Virtual Meetings remains the same as it is for face-to-face meetings. (see the [Submitting Critiques and Scores](#) section for more detail on standard scoring)

To access the *VM Discussion Dashboard* and provide a score, click on the *View List of Applications* link from the list of meetings.
From the View List of Applications page, click on the Go To Discussion button to go to the Discussion Board page for that application.

On the VM Discussion Dashboard page, in the Reviewers and Scores section, there will be an Enter/Edit Discussion Score button in the title bar. Clicking on this button will open a pop-up window to allow the reviewer to record their score.

If a score has already been entered, it can be edited directly in the Discussion Score field. This may be desired after additional discussion comments are reviewed.
Once the score has been selected and the **Save** button is clicked, the reviewer will be taken back to the VM *Discussion Dashboard* page for that application.

**Final Scores**

The Final Score Sheet may be accessed via the **Go To:** drop-down menu from the Virtual Meeting List of [All/My] Applications screen.

Choosing the **Final Score Sheet** from the **Go To:** menu will open the Final Score Sheet screen which will list all of the applications in that meeting and provide fields for the Criterion Scores as well as the Final Scores.
After scores are entered, the reviewer has the option to use the Save All link in the Action column or the equivalent button at the bottom of the sheet. Additionally, the reviewer may choose the Save All and Return button to go to the previous page or the Cancel button to make no changes and return to the previous page.

For individual applications, the Virtual Meeting Discussion Dashboard screen has an Enter Final Score button in the Reviewers and Scores section which opens up a pop-up screen for entering criteria and final scores for this application only.

If the Enter Final Score button is clicked, a pop-up window will open allowing entry of the Final score for that one application. Click the Save button to save the score.
VM Meeting Discussion Dashboard

In order to access the Virtual Meeting Discussion Dashboard:

- Select Internet Assisted Review from the eRA Commons menu bar.

- This action will open the List of Meetings page where you will see meetings that you have been assigned to by the SRO*. Select the View List of Applications link in the Action column.
IAR for Reviewers

- From the **View List of Applications** screen, in the list of applications at the bottom, click on the **Go To Discussion** button in the **Discussion** column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unread/Total</th>
<th>Discussion [Rescue or Go to Discussion]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/13</td>
<td>Go To Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** This button will only be enabled when an application is eligible for discussion either during the DISCUSSION phase or during the specific Cluster DISCUSSION phase (if set).

**Note:** When accessing the **Virtual Meeting Discussion Dashboard** directly from the URL for the meeting, a check is performed to ensure COI certification. If you have not completed the COI certification, an alert message will be displayed with a link prompting you to sign the COI for this meeting.

- Virtual Meeting Discussion Dashboard

  **Alert!**
  Conflict certification is required. You must certify prior to submitting scores and reading or submitting critiques. Please click here to sign your certification for this meeting.
The **Virtual Meeting Discussion Dashboard** screens will open in separate tabs or windows (depending on browser settings) for each application. The tabs will show the name of the PI (last, first) and the first part of the application number as space permits.
Once on the Virtual Meeting Discussion Dashboard screen, you will see the following sections:

1. **Header** - The top of the screen contains:
   - The cluster that the application is in (if clusters have been created)
   - The application number which is linked to its Grant Folder page.
   - The PI name
   - The title of the application
   - Links to view critiques
   - The date and time that the screen was last refreshed.

2. **Meeting Information** - This section has the following details:
   - Meeting Title
   - The name of the SRO
   - Meeting Identifier
   - Workgroup
   - Meeting Phase
   - Critiques Due date
   - Meeting Dates
   - **Cluster Discussion Dates** *(conditional)* - Shows the list of clusters and their beginning and ending dates and times. If no clusters have been created, this sub-section will not appear.
3. **Reviewers and Scores** - This section contains:

- An indicator of the number of reviewers currently online. This will display a green circle [奀] and a count of the number of reviewers currently online out of the total number of reviewers. If the reviewer appears to be idle for 20 minutes, the indicator will disappear.

- **Enter/Edit Discussion Score** button - New scores may be entered and existing scores may be changed. Existing scores can be edited directly in the Discussion Score field. This can be done multiple times throughout the DISCUSSION phase as additional discussion comments are reviewed.

  **Tip:** Existing discussion scores may be edited directly in the **Discussion Score** field.

- **Enter Final Score** button if final scoring has been enabled in the Discussion Phase.

- The names of assigned reviewers as well as other reviewers who have either posted comments or discussion scores. Names post to this list as reviewers and observers score or comment on the application.

  **Note:** By default, the list is sorted alphabetically by the last name of the assigned reviewers first and then by unassigned reviewers. If the sort is changed by the user, the **Default Sort** button can be clicked to reset it.

- The Preliminary, Discussion, and Final Scores submitted to date.
• The total number of comments submitted by each reviewer.

This section contains; This section contains; This section contains;

4. **Left Navigation** - This area will list the message categories beginning with "Meeting-wide Announcements" from the SRO. These are characteristics of this area:
   • It will scroll up and down as the user scrolls on the page and is always in view.
   • When there are new or edited messages, an indicator in each topic area will alert the user to the total number of announcements/messages for that topic and the number of unread messages which are indicated as "New".
   • Click on the title of a topic to see the announcements/messages related to that topic.
   • To collapse this tool, click on the blue bar on the right with the left-pointing double carats. The navigation tool will collapse to the left margin.

If the navigation window is collapsed, and new or edited announcements or discussion messages exist, a green indicator will pop-up on the upper-right side of the visible part of the screen (it will scroll with the screen) that will notify the user that there are new messages.

```text
New announcements: 1
New Comments: 6
```
Clicking on the link will expand the *Left Navigation* section to show which topics have new messages.

5. **Announcements & Comments section** - Announcements published by the SRO and comments made by reviewers will be displayed here depending on the topic selected in the Left Navigation. The messages may be displayed as conversations or chronologically and online reviewers or SROs will be indicated with the green circle icon [ ● ].

![Image of a comment thread]

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA)* - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.
Certifying Conflicts of Interest

The electronic Conflict of Interest (eCOI) forms are certified via IAR from the List of Meetings screen for the particular meeting. There is a pre-meeting eCOI certification as well as a post-meeting eCOI certification (to be certified after the meeting has ended).

Pre-and-post-meeting conflict of interest (COI) certification by reviewers is performed in the Internet Assisted Review (IAR) module. Paper certifications are no longer supported.

Certifying both the pre-meeting COI certification and the post-meeting COI certifications is essential to ensuring that the NIH peer review process is fair, impartial and conducted with integrity. The certifications must be completed electronically whether or not there is a conflict.

If an attempt is made to submit critiques, criterion scores, and preliminary overall impact score before the pre-meeting COI certification, the reviewer will see an alert on the Submit Critiques and Preliminary Scores screen. Similar alerts will be seen on the List of All Applications screen and the Final Score Sheet screens. The reviewer should click the ‘click here’ link in the alert pop-up to access the pre-meeting COI certification.

The alert will also be displayed if a re-certification is needed in these scenarios:

- If an additional conflict is discovered before the meeting
- If the meeting date changes and previous certifications reflect the prior meeting date
- If the scientific review officer (SRO) changes the designation of the reviewer from federal to non-federal or vice versa
- If the meeting agenda has changed from grants to contracts or vice versa

**Note:** Non-NIH reviews might use a different COI certification. Reviewers should contact the SRO* of the meeting if the electronic COI link is not available in IAR.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.

**Pre-Meeting Conflict of Interest Certification**

The NIH peer review process relies on reviewers to identify any conflicts of interest (COI) that may affect the integrity of the process. The rules for identifying COIs can be found online at the following site: https://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer_coi.htm.
Reviewers certify the *Pre-Meeting Certification* before participating in the review meeting. The purpose of the certification is to confirm that the reviewer will not participate in discussions surrounding applications with which that reviewer is in conflict.

Reviewers must certify their pre-meeting COI certification early in the process. **If reviewers do not certify the pre-meeting COI certification, they will not be able to submit critiques, criterion scores and preliminary/overall impact scores in IAR.** They will also not be able to view critiques submitted by other reviewers.

The language of the pre- and post-meeting COI certifications has been updated, so reviewers should read it carefully before certifying at the bottom of the screen. Note that the system will recognize whether it is a non-federal or federal reviewer or whether it is a grants or contracts review, and will accordingly display the right text.

**Here are the steps to certify the pre-meeting COI before the meeting (the happy path)**

**To certify the Pre-Meeting COI form:**

1. Access the *List of Meetings* screen.
2. Select the *Pre-Meeting COI Certification* link from the *Action* column of the specific meeting.

The *Pre-Meeting Certification* displays. Before displaying the screen, IAR checks to see if the reviewer has any conflicts of interest. If conflicts are found, the corresponding applications display in the mid-section of the screen. If no conflicts are found, this section displays the message *There are no applications with conflict of interest.*

- I do not have a conflict of interest and do not present the appearance of conflict of interest with any of the applications to be reviewed.
- I have a conflict of interest or present the appearance of a conflict of interest with the specific applications listed below and hereby recuse myself from their review (identify applications by number and name of the Principal Investigator).

```
1 R21 AA123456-01 - Longstocking, Pippi
1 R21 AA123456-01 - Spade, Sam
1 R21 AA123456-01 - March, Augie
1 R21 AA123456-01 - Godightly, Holly
```

* Signature:

**Note:** The displayed certification differs for reviewers depending on whether they are Federal or non-Federal staff and if the award is a grant or a contract. For examples of the Pre-Meeting Certification screens click on these links:
Grants certifications (effective 10/31/2018)

- NIH Conflict of Interest Grants Pre-Review Certification, Non-Federal (10/29/2018)
- NIH Conflict of Interest Grants Pre-Review Certification, Federal (effective 10/29/2018)

Contracts certifications (effective 10/31/2018)

- NIH Conflict of Interest Contract Pre-Review Certification, Non-Federal (10/29/2018)
- NIH Conflict of Interest Contract Pre-Review Certification, Federal (10/29/2018)

3. Optional: Select the List of Meetings link to return to the List of Meetings without certifying the form.

4. Optional: Select the NIH Conflict of Interest Rules link to read COI certification rules and information. This link displays with a -Fed suffix when the reviewer is a federal employee as specified in the Committee Management system. The link displays with a suffix of Non-Fed if the reviewer is not a federal employee.

5. Non-Federal Reviewers: Select the radio button appropriate for the meeting:
   - For grant applications:
     - I do not have a conflict of interest and do not present the appearance of conflict of interest with any of the applications to be reviewed
     - I have a conflict of interest or present the appearance of a conflict of interest with the specific applications listed below and hereby recuse myself from their review (identify applications by number and name of the Principal Investigator).
   - For contract proposals:
     - I do not have a conflict of interest and do not present the appearance of conflict of interest with any of the proposals to be reviewed.
     - I have a conflict of interest or present the appearance of a conflict of interest with the proposal(s) listed below, and hereby recuse myself from their review (identify proposals by the names of the offeror and Principal Investigator). I understand that a waiver is required for me to participate in this review meeting.

6. Select the I Certify button.
Certification

I certify that I have read the attached "NIH Conflict of Interest Rules: Information for Reviewers of NIH Applications and R&D Contract Proposals" Under penalty of perjury (US Code Title 18 chapter 67 section 1001), I certify that to the best of my knowledge I have disclosed all conflicts of interest that I may have with the applications or R&D contract proposals and I fully understand the confidential nature of the review process and agree: (1) to destroy or return all materials related to it; (2) not to disclose or discuss the materials associated with the review, my evaluation, or the review meeting with any other individual except as authorized by the Scientific Review Officer (SRO) or other designated NIH official; (3) not to disclose procurement information prior to the award of a contract; and (4) to refer all inquiries concerning the review to the SRO or other designated NIH official.

Signature: [Signature]
When the certification is submitted, IAR performs several system checks to verify the entries. If applications with conflicts are displayed on the screen, but the radio button for no conflict is
chosen, a warning message displays indicating that one or more conflicts may exist. Reviewers can either go back (Go Back button) and update the selection or choose the Certify No Conflicts button to continue.

If the non-federal reviewer has not selected one of the two radio button options but selects the I Certify button, a message displays as follows: You must select one of the radio buttons above before certifying.

Other messages may display based on all the business and system rules in place. Review any messages and follow the appropriate steps to resolve the issue.

Federal reviewers do not need to click any radio buttons as they are only required to certify that they comply with their agency’s financial disclosure and ethical conduct requirements.

If the certification passes verification, IAR adds the electronic signature of the reviewer with the current date and time.

For non-Federal reviewers in non-contract meetings, a Certification History table will be displayed at the bottom of the screen showing the initial certification and any subsequent activity affecting the certification.
COI Certification History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Certified</th>
<th>Applications/Proposals Conflict</th>
<th>Reason(s) for (re)certification</th>
<th>Certified By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/03/2018 09:47 AM</td>
<td>No pre-meeting conflict(s)</td>
<td>Certified - No Conflict</td>
<td>HERNANDEZ, PETER GENE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03/2018 09:49 AM</td>
<td>1R21AA123456-01A1 - Germanotta, Stephanie</td>
<td>Pre-meeting conflict(s)</td>
<td>Certified - Conflict(s) Exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03/2018 09:51 AM</td>
<td>1R21AA123456-01A1 - Breaux, Christopher Edwin</td>
<td>Change of Federal/Non-Federal status</td>
<td>Certified - HERNANDEZ, PETER GENE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03/2018 09:53 AM</td>
<td>1R21AA999999-01 - Breaux, Christopher Edwin</td>
<td>Change of meeting agenda</td>
<td>Certified -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the List of Meetings link or the Cancel button to exit the screen.

**Re-certifying a Pre-Meeting COI**

A re-certification is needed in the following scenarios:

- If an additional conflict is discovered before the meeting
- If the meeting date changes and certifications reflect the previous date
- If the scientific review officer (SRO) changes the designation of the reviewer from federal to non-federal or vice versa
- If the meeting agenda has changed from grants to contracts or vice versa

- An alert on IAR screens will notify reviewers that they need to certify the pre-meeting COI certification if they have forgotten to do so or in case they need to recertify. The reviewers must click on the ‘click here’ link in the alert box to access the pre-meeting COI certification.

- The pre-meeting certification is available until the start of the meeting, at which time only the post-meeting certification is available. If a conflict is reported before the meeting starts (or under any of the other scenarios below), the pre-meeting COI certification will be available (even past the meeting start date and time) until the pre-meeting certification is certified. Once certified, the post-meeting COI certification will appear until the end of the Edit phase.
Here are the steps to recertify the pre-meeting COI before the meeting:

- The reviewer will see an alert in a box on one of these IAR screens — on the List of All Applications or the Submit Critique and Preliminary Scores or the Final Score Sheet screen. The alert will state:

  Conflict certification is required. You must certify prior to submitting scores and reading or submitting critiques. Please click here to sign your certification for this meeting.

The ‘submit’ link in the Action column will be missing.

The reviewer should click on ‘click here’ in that alert box.

- The Pre-Meeting COI certification will open up.

Note that the system will recognize whether it is a non-federal or federal reviewer, whether it is a grants or contracts review and accordingly display the right text. The language of the pre- and post-meeting certifications has been updated, so reviewers should read it carefully before certifying at the bottom of the screen.
A non-federal reviewer is required to choose one of two radio buttons – one indicating no conflict with any of the applications/proposals to be reviewed; the other indicating a conflict.

The non-federal reviewer will then click the **I Certify** blue button at the bottom of the page. The system will show that the pre-meeting COI has been electronically signed and a COI Certification History chart will appear, showing the name of the reviewer and the date and time the pre-meeting COI was signed. If the reviewer indicated a conflict, the grant number of the relevant application will be listed.

Once the **I Certify** button is clicked, the pre-meeting COI certification will be automatically saved. The reviewer will click cancel to exit the screen and return to the List of All Applications screen. The submit link will now be visible under the Action column.

**Post Meeting Conflict of Interest Certification**

The NIH peer review process relies on reviewers to identify any conflicts of interest (COI) that may affect the integrity of the process. The rules for identifying COIs can be found online at the following site: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-010.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-010.html).

Reviewers certify the Post Meeting Certification at the completion of a review meeting to confirm that participation in discussions about conflicted applications did not take place with the reviewer present.

The post-meeting COI certification must be electronically signed at the time reviewers complete their participation in the study section meeting. **Paper certifications will no longer be accepted.**

The post-meeting COI form will be available until the end of the Edit phase.

The language of the pre- and post-meeting COI certifications has been updated, so reviewers should read it carefully before certifying at the bottom of the screen. Note that the system will recognize whether it is a non-federal or federal reviewer or whether it is a grants or contracts review, and will accordingly display the right text:

To access and sign the Post Meeting Certification:
1. Access the List of Meetings screen.

![List of Meetings](image)

2. Select the **Post-Meeting COI Certification** link from the **Action** column of the specific meeting.

   The *Post Meeting Certification* screen displays. The reviewer's name and address as well as the Scientific Review Group name and review date/s are at the top of the form.

   At the bottom of the certification, the **Printed Name** of the reviewer displays along with a **Signature** field for capturing the electronic signature of the reviewer and the date and time of the review.

3. **Optional:** Select the **List of Meetings** link to return to the *List of Meetings* screen without signing the form. Selecting the **Cancel** button also returns the *List of Meetings* screen without saving the form.

4. Select the **I Certify** button after reading the certification.

   The **Signature** field updates with the electronic signature of the reviewer and timestamp. If necessary, reviewers may access the form and follow the steps for submission to re-submit the certification.

   Note that there is some additional text in the Federal Reviewer version that is not part of the Non-Federal Reviewer version. The format, rules and final certification paragraph contain the same language and links.
IAR for Reviewers

NIH POST-REVIEW CERTIFICATION REGARDING
CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR NON-FEDERAL REVIEWERS
OF APPLICATIONS FOR NIH GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Reviewer Name: ___________________________ (Lastname, Firstname M)
Address (employment):
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
City, State Zip Code
Scientific Review Group:
Date(s) of review:

NIH Conflict of Interest Rules:
Information for Reviewers of Applications for NIH Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Fellowships

The NIH peer review system relies on the professionalism of each reviewer to identify any conflict of interest (COI) or apparent COI that may affect or appear to affect the integrity of the NIH peer review process.

- The NIH COI rules for initial peer review for grant applications, cooperative agreements, and fellowships are based on federal regulations (42 CFR Part 52b) and presented in detail in NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-13-010.
- In order to participate in the review meeting, you must:
  o Review the rules below, and screen the applications for real or apparent COI for yourself.
  o Notify the Scientific Review Officer immediately:
    - If you have a COI that prevents you from serving on that review panel (see below), or
    - If you identify an application with which you have a COI or appearance of COI.
  o Certify:
    - On the pre-meeting Conflict of Interest Certification that you have identified any application with which you have a COI or appearance of COI.
    - On the post-meeting Conflict of Interest Certification that you recused yourself from the review of any application where your participation constitutes a real or apparent COI. In addition, the NIH may determine that a particular situation involves a COI and require that the potential reviewer not be involved in the review of the application(s) in question.
- You may not be on the study section if:
  - You are named on an application in a major professional role (Program Director/Principal Investigator [PD/PI], Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributor, Project Site/Core Director collaborator, consultant, sponsor, mentor, or conference organizer).
  - You are a member of an NIH Advisory Council.
  - You have a direct financial interest; your, your close family member would receive a direct financial benefit if an application is funded.
  - You have a Major Professional Role in an application submitted to a Request for Applications (RFA) and the study section will evaluate applications submitted in response to that RFA.
- You may be on the study section but may not review certain applications, and must leave the room when:
  - The PD/PI or anyone else on the application with a major professional role is from your institution or for multicomponent institutions, from your institutional component.
  - You are planning a collaboration with anyone with a major professional role on the application.
  - Within the past three years, you have published with, have collaborated with, or have been in a mentoring relationship with any person on the application who has a major professional role.
  - The application includes a letter of support or reference letter from you.
  - You serve as a member of the Advisory Board for the project under review or for a grant held by anyone playing a major professional role on the application.
  - You have an indirect financial interest; you will have received more than $10,000 (in the form of honoraria, stocks, or fees) from the PD/PI or the submitting institution over the period from one year ago through the end of the proposed project.
- You may be on the study section and may review specific applications (not considered a COI):
  - An application originates from an institution where you have collaborators, but your collaborators are not listed on the application.
  - You have an indirect financial interest of less than $10,000.
  - You freely donate reagents or other materials to the proposed project, and these reagents or materials would also be available to other researchers.
  - You, as well as a person with a major role on the proposed project, contribute data, reagents, specimens, etc., to the same repository or database.
  - You are a member of a research network that involves a person with a major role on the proposed project.
  - You are a co-author of a non-research publication (e.g., review, commentary) or a mega-multi-authored publication with a person with a major role on the proposed project.

Post-Meeting Certification: Reviewer Who Is Not A Federal Employee

This is to certify that in the review identified above, I did not participate in an evaluation of any application: (1) from any applicant institution where I am a full- or part-time salaried employee or where I am negotiating for such employment, (2) from any applicant institution where I have received or could receive a direct financial benefit in relation to the application under review or have received or could receive a financial benefit from the institution or from the principal investigator or valued at $10,000 or more per year that is unrelated to the application under review, (3) submitted by, or involves in a major professional role, a close personal relative, a member of my household, or professional associate, or if such person receives financial benefits from or provides financial benefits to an applicant, or (4) in which I had any other interest in the application or proposal that is likely to bias my evaluation of that application. If there was an appearance of, or real conflict of interest, I recused myself from the review of the application or was granted an appropriate waiver.

CERTIFICATION

Consistent with my understanding of potential consequences, including the prospect of penalties for falsification, concealment, fraud, and other actions as authorized by US Code Title 18 chapter 47 section 1003 (https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USC40E-2011-1003/pdf/USC40E-2011-1003-part-chap-12.pdf). I fully understand the confidential nature of the review process and certify that in the review above I did not participate in an evaluation of any application with which I knowingly had a conflict of interest, unless an appropriate waiver was granted.

Signature: _______________________________
Lastname, Firstname M

Printed name: ___________________________

Electronically signed by ____________________ (Lastname, Firstname M) via Internet Assisted Review on ____________________ (Date and Time)

Signing the Meeting Conflict of

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May 5, 2020
A list of examples for Federal, Non-Federal grants and contract Post-Meeting Certifications can be found at the links below:

**Grants certifications (effective 10/31/2018)**

- NIH Conflict of Interest Grants Post-Review Certification, Non-Federal (effective 10/29/2018)
- NIH Conflict of Interest Grants Post-Review Certification, Federal (effective 10/29/2018)

**Contracts certifications (effective 10/31/2018)**

- NIH Conflict of Interest Contract Post-Review Certification, Non-Federal (10/29/2018)
- NIH Conflict of Interest Contract Post-Review Certification, Federal (10/29/2018)

5. Select the **List of Meetings** link to exit the certification.

**Note:** In rare cases, the **I Certify** button may not appear on the screen. This is due to multiple profiles in the system for the same person. Contact the SRO* or [ERA Service Desk](#) in this case.

**Note:** If the post-meeting COI has not been signed and the meeting end date has been passed, a reminder email will be sent to the MLG email address indicating the relevant meeting name and date as well as the date when access to the meeting will expire.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*
SRG Minutes/Budget Form

The Chairperson of the meeting designated by the SRO* has the ability to electronically sign the SRG Minutes/Budget Form in IAR. The SRO may designate multiple reviewers to perform this task.

**Note:** Please keep in mind that this task must be completed while the meeting is still in the Edit Phase. Once the Edit Phase ends, reviewers may no longer have access to the meeting, including links to the SRG Minutes/Budget Form.

To sign the SRG Minutes/Budget Form:

1. Access the List of Meetings screen.
2. Select the **SRG Minutes/Budget Form** link from the **Action** column of the specific meeting.
   
   The SRG Minutes/Budget Form displays.
3. **Optional:** Select the **List of Meetings** link to return to the List of Meetings screen without signing the form.
4. Enter the **Meeting Adjourned Time** and the **Meeting Adjourned Date**.
5. Select the **I Certify** button.

**Note:** If the SRO has designated multiple reviewers, each reviewer’s name appears on the form with a certification line. Clicking the **I Certify** button only updates the electronic signature of the reviewer currently in the form. Reviewers cannot sign the form for other Reviewers.

**Note:** In rare cases, the **I Certify** button may not appear on the screen. This is due to multiple profiles in the system for the same person. Contact the SRO or eRA Service Desk in this case.

**Tip:** *Other Transaction Authority (OTA) - Some screens and terminology may be different in order to accommodate review of OTA, a type of award that is neither a grant nor a contract but a different way of funding that is being used across NIH. These changes will typically not be visible to NIH or agency reviewers.*